

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
FOR IRELAND,

FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1920,

BEING

THE FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT UNDER "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
(IRELAND) ACT, 1872," 35 & 36 VIO., c. 69.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

DUBLIN CASTLE,

14th February, 1921.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25th ultimo (No. 6/M/1921 : Office) forwarding for submission to His Excellency The Lord Lieutenant the Annual Report of the Local Government Board for the year ended 31st March, 1920, being the 48th Annual Report under the Local Government Board (Ireland) Act, 1872.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. COPE.

The Secretary,

Local Government Board,

Dublin..

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD FOR IRELAND.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN DENTON PINKSTONE,
VISCOUNT FRENCH,

Lord Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,
DUBLIN, 21st January, 1921.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, the Local Government Board for Ireland, submit to Your Excellency this our Forty-eighth Annual Report, under the Statute 35 and 36 Vic., chap. 69, entitled "The Local Government Board (Ireland) Act, 1872," which deals with our proceedings, generally, during the year ended the 31st of March, 1920.

For convenience of reference, the Report is classified under the following heads :—

- I. Local Government (Ireland) Acts, Motor Car Acts, Representation of the People Act, Old Age Pensions Acts, War Relief, Reconstruction Works, etc. ;
- II. Poor Relief, Medical Charities ;
- III. Public Health Acts, Tuberculosis Acts, etc. ;
- IV. Housing and Irish Land (Provision for Sailors and Soldiers) Act, 1919 ;
- V. Provisional Orders under the Public Health Acts, and the Local Government Acts, etc. ;
- VI. Borrowing by Local Authorities; Loans sanctioned for Housing Schemes, Public Health purposes, etc. ;
- VII. Payments from the Local Taxation Account in aid of Local Rates ;
- VIII. Audit ;
- IX. Examination of Parliamentary Bills ;
- X. Deputations received ;
- XI. Departmental arrangements.

The usual appendices giving details of expenditure, as well as important orders, circulars and reports, have not been printed, but pursuant to the provisions of Section 23 (2) and (3) of the Local Government (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1916, summaries of the expenditure, etc., are given in the body of the Report. The various tabular statements have been prepared in the office, and the information contained therein is available at any time if required.

I.—LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1919

Elections.

By the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1919, which received the Royal Assent on the 3rd June, 1919, the Local Government Elections of County Councillors, Rural District Councillors and Guardians in Urban Districts were further postponed until the ordinary day of election in the year 1920, and at the same time the term of office of each County Councillor and Guardian was further extended for one year. Under the Local Elections (No. 2) Act, 1917, these elections were due to be held in May and June, 1919, and during the progress of the Local Government (Ireland) Bill through Parliament, several of the Local Authorities concerned, in obedience to the law as then in force, made the necessary preparations for carrying out the elections, issuing notices, and receiving nominations, while in the case of the remainder of the bodies affected, action was deferred in view of the impending legislation. We were not in a position to give an authoritative ruling in the matter, but we pointed out to the Authorities concerned the probability of legislation, and advised them so far as possible to avoid incurring election expenses which might prove unnecessary.

The position which arose was however fully appreciated by Parliament who included the following provision in Section 6 (4) of the Act of 1919:—

“This section shall be deemed to have had effect as from the fifteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and nineteen, and accordingly any act, matter, or thing done or omitted by any County Council, Rural District Council, or Board of Guardians, or by any member or officer thereof (including a returning officer), after that day and before the passing of this Act, which would have been lawfully done or omitted if this section had then been in actual operation, shall be deemed to have been lawfully done or omitted, and any election of Councillors or Guardians held within the period *aforesaid* shall be deemed to be void, and each existing councillor and guardian shall be deemed to have continued in office notwithstanding that the ordinary day of election or retirement occurred within the said period.”

Besides giving legal sanction to the postponement of the County and Rural District Elections for a further year, the Act provided that on the ordinary day of retirement in the year 1920, viz., 16th January, all the Aldermen and Councillors for any Borough and all the Councillors for any other Urban District, and all the Commissioners for any Town should, notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary and notwithstanding any system of rotation in force, go out of office, and their places be filled by newly elected Aldermen, Councillors, and Commissioners.

It was further enacted that in every Borough the term of office of an Alderman shall be three years, that Aldermen and Councillors shall be elected together triennially and shall retire together, and in every Urban District not being a Borough and in every Town, the Councillors and Commissioners shall all be elected triennially. The Act thus made the triennial system applicable to all elections to local authorities in Ireland, and by so doing repealed as respects Boroughs the provisions of Sections 61 and 62 of the Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Act, 1840, whereby one-third of the Councillors, in rotation, went out of office annually, and one-half of the Aldermen, in rotation, every third year; and also repealed the proviso to Section 21 (2) (a) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, in regard to the procedure for the adoption of the triennial system of elections in Boroughs.

In the case of Urban Districts and Towns, the provisions repealed were Section 23 of the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854; Section 24 of the same Act, as respects the rotation of Commissioners, and the proviso to Section 23 (1) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, as regards the adoption of the triennial system of election of Councillors for an Urban District.

The fundamental change effected by the Act of 1919 was, however, the general extension of the principle of Proportional Representation to Local Government Elections, each elector having one transferable vote, in lieu of the system of direct voting hitherto in force. The principle of Proportional Representation had been made applicable by the Representation of the People Act, 1918, to University Constituencies for election of Members to Parliament, but had only been applied previously to Local Government elections in Ireland in the case of the Borough of Sligo, under the Sligo Corporation Act, 1918, to which reference was made in our last Report.

Before proceeding to record the actual working of the system in respect of the Municipal Elections held within the year under review, we desire to set down briefly the preliminary steps taken by us under the Act of 1919.

Electoral Areas.

For the purpose of forming electoral areas suitable for the application of the principle of Proportional Representation, the Act required us, by Order, to divide the several Counties, Boroughs Urban and Rural Districts, Poor Law Unions and Towns into local electoral areas so as to constitute—

- (a) In every county, county electoral areas for the election of county councillors;
- (b) In every rural district, district electoral areas for the election of Rural District Councillors;

- (c) In every borough, borough electoral areas for the election of Aldermen and Councillors ;
- (d) In every Urban District, not being a borough, District electoral areas for the election of Urban District Councillors ;
- (e) In so much of every Union as is situated in an Urban District, Poor Law Electoral Areas for the election of Guardians ; and
- (f) In every Town, Town electoral areas for the election of Town Commissioners.

We were also directed to determine and assign by Order the number of Members to be elected for each local electoral area, and it was laid down in the Statute that in constituting the local electoral areas and assigning Members thereto, we were, so far as practicable, to secure :—

- (a) that the total number of members of any local authority, other than a rural district council or board of guardians, shall not be altered ;
- (b) that the number of members of a rural district council or board of guardians be reduced by one half at least ;
- (c) that the number of members assigned to the local electoral areas shall in each case be such as to give equal representation upon the basis of population ;
- (d) that the number of members assigned to any local electoral area shall not be less than six in the case of any borough electoral area, and three in the case of any other local electoral area.

In the case of borough councils, provision was made in the Act enabling them within the prescribed time to submit to us a Scheme for the division of the borough into borough electoral areas, and the assignment of members thereto, and we were required on being satisfied that the scheme had been published by the local authority in the prescribed manner to adopt the scheme, except where and so far as we saw good reason to the contrary.

The power was also given to us to constitute any urban district or town, or so much of any union as is situated in an urban district, a single urban, town, or poor law electoral area, as the case may be.

The further provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, rendered obsolete by the Act of 1919 were the proviso to section 2 (3), relating to the establishing of county electoral divisions for the election of county councillors and the election of one councillor for each county division except where an urban district forming one such division returned more than one councillor ; section 2 (4), in so far as it enabled an elector to

give in a county electoral division one vote and no more, or in the case of an urban district forming one county electoral division and returning more than one councillor one vote and no more for each of any number of persons not exceeding the number of councillors to be elected for that division ; section 23 (3) (b), which provided for the election of two councillors for each district electoral division or the election of more than two councillors to a town or part of a town forming one district electoral division ; section 23 (3) (c), which provided that for each local government election an elector may give in an electoral division one vote and no more for each and any number of persons not exceeding the number of councillors to be elected for the division ; section 24 (c) which enabled us, where an urban county district or part thereof or part of a county borough was constituted a district electoral division, to assign to that division two or more guardians ; section 24 (d) which enabled an elector to give in a district electoral division one vote and no more for each and any number of persons not exceeding the number of guardians to be elected for that division.

At the outset, we confined our attention to constituting the electoral areas for the boroughs, urban districts and towns, as the elections to these bodies were fixed to be held in January, 1920, those to the county and rural district councils and boards of guardians not being due until the following May and June.

In accordance with the Statute we prescribed by Order, dated the 24th June, 1919, the time within which each borough council was to submit to us a scheme for the division of the borough into electoral areas and the assignment of members thereto, and the manner in which the scheme was to be published by the council. The first day of October, 1919, was fixed as the latest day for the submission of a scheme, and, before submission to us for adoption, the scheme was required to be published by the council of the borough one month at least by the fixing and keeping posted during the said month of copies of the scheme in some conspicuous place on or near the outer door of the office of the council, and at such other places as the council may direct, together with a notice of the time within which the scheme was to be submitted to Us, and by advertisement of the scheme, and of the time within which it was to be submitted to Us, in a newspaper circulating within the borough.

Of the six county borough councils and five borough councils to whom a copy of our Order was issued, three councils, viz. :—Waterford county borough council and Sligo and Wexford borough councils failed to submit a scheme within the prescribed time and in each of these instances an Order was made by us constituting in the borough, borough electoral areas and assigning members thereto. Seven of the eight schemes submitted to us were adopted with a few slight modifications in the de-

scription of the boundaries, but in the case of the remaining county borough, namely, Londonderry, the scheme was strongly opposed by a section of the Corporation. A lengthy protest on their behalf was made against the adoption of the scheme for the constituting of four borough electoral areas, namely, Londonderry North, Waterside, Londonderry East and South, and Londonderry West borough electoral areas, on the grounds that the scheme involved an alteration of the boundaries of two of the existing five wards of the county borough, and that the allocation of the members to the several areas had not been determined on the basis of population.

On full consideration of the Corporation's scheme and of the objections put forward against it, we decided to adopt the scheme except in so far as it provided for the allocation of 12 members to the north electoral area and 7 members to the west electoral area. Before, however, exercising our powers in relation to the scheme we intimated to the local authority the course we proposed to take and thereupon legal proceedings on behalf of the objectors (*Rex (O'Neill) v. Local Government Board*) were instituted for the purpose of obtaining an order of prohibition to restrain us from adopting in whole or in part the Corporation's scheme. The case was argued in the King's Bench Division and the court, in giving judgment, against the prosecutor with costs, stated that the representations of both parties, *i.e.* the Corporation and the objectors to the scheme, were all matters for our consideration, that it was our duty to adopt the scheme except in so far as we saw good reason to the contrary, that the court had not power to prohibit us from considering all the matters involved, and that they had not jurisdiction to interfere with us in the discharge of the duty which was cast upon us by Statute.

In urban districts and towns the delimitation of the electoral areas rested entirely with us. No great difficulty was experienced in complying with the statutory conditions, to which reference has already been made, and by the 30th September, 1919, we were in a position to make the necessary Orders in regard to 89 urban districts and 27 towns. The Orders were issued on the 1st October following to the local authorities. Only in one district did our decisions give rise to controversy, and, in this instance, upon consideration of the objections raised, we agreed to a slight amendment of the Order.

In the constituting of county and district electoral areas, we were confronted with a more elaborate task. The Act required us to secure, as far as practicable, that the number of members assigned to any of these areas was not to be less than three, and in each case was to be such as to give equal representation upon the basis of population; and further, that the number of members of a rural district council or board of guardians was to be reduced by one-half at least.

In the delimitation of the boundaries of these several areas, it was impossible to disregard local interests and geographical considerations, and after careful survey of all the facts, we found that equality of population and general convenience likewise would best be attained by fixing three, four, five, and, in some cases, six and seven member areas, as determined on the basis of population, rather than by endeavouring to arrange constituencies to suit some uniform or ideal number for proportional representation areas, such as the numbers five, seven, or nine are sometimes regarded.

In this respect we had the benefit of our experience of the suitability as electoral units of the county electoral divisions established under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. These divisions which were in all cases multiples of district electoral divisions had been arranged with a view to population of each division being as nearly as conveniently possible equal, and with regard to a proper representation both of the rural and urban population. In the interval between 1898 and 1919 very little change had taken place in the relative population of the former county electoral divisions, and we found that county electoral areas suitable for proportional representation could be formed by combining three or more of the former county divisions. We therefore adopted this line of action as far as possible subject to adjustment of boundaries where necessary by the transfer or the addition of entire district electoral divisions, in order to meet the statutory conditions as to population. It was not, however, practicable to effect any alteration of the boundaries of the existing district electoral divisions, as these divisions were and still continue to be the units on which the registers of Parliamentary and Local Government electors are based.

In rural districts we endeavoured likewise to constitute as electoral areas such portions of the districts as were most likely to have interests in common, and in this respect we found in many instances that the dispensary areas satisfied all requirements. By the 5th February, 1920, we were in a position to make our orders constituting county and district electoral areas in each county and rural district in Ireland and to place them in the hands of the local authorities very soon after that date. The electoral areas for the election of guardians for boroughs and urban districts were completed towards the end of the same month.

Practically no objection was taken by the local authorities to these several electoral areas, except in the case of County Tyrone, and in this instance the county and district electoral areas met with opposition from different political parties in the county. It was alleged by one section that our Order, in so far as it related to the county electoral areas, did not make adequate provision for the application of the principle of proportional

representation, or fully meet the requirements of the Statute, and legal proceedings were instituted in the High Court (*Rex (Hunter) v. the Local Government Board*), with a view to having the Order quashed. Upon the hearing of the case, the Court gave judgment against the prosecutor with costs, holding that our Order on its face was in compliance and did not conflict with any of the provisions of the Statute and was not subject to *certiorari*.

In the appendix to this Report will be found a summarised statement of the several electoral areas which were constituted under the Act.

The Act of 1919 did not impose, in terms, on us any special duty with respect to administrative work in carrying out the elections beyond the making of such Orders as might appear to us necessary or proper for giving full effect to the Act; including Orders prescribing the method of voting and transferring and counting votes and the duties of returning officers in connection therewith, adapting any of the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, or Orders in Council made thereunder, or of any other enactment, so as to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the Act of 1919, and removing any difficulty which might arise as to the holding of the first triennial elections.

The application of the principle of Proportional Representation to local elections being a complete departure from the comparatively simple practice which hitherto prevailed, and the methods of voting and the counting of the votes to which the individual candidates are entitled under the new system being somewhat intricate, we conceived it to be the intention of Parliament that we should administer the Act generally, including the affording to the local officers who would be engaged in the conduct of the elections such instruction as would enable them to carry out their duties in a satisfactory manner. In this connection, our first step was to familiarise the several local authorities with the rules governing the application of the principle of Proportional Representation, and these we embodied in an Order which we made on the 2nd August, 1919, entitled *The Proportional Representation (Ireland) Order, 1919*.

Later we found it necessary to make adaptations, alterations, and exceptions in certain provisions of the Ballot Act, 1872, the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, and the Municipal Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Act, 1884, as embodied in previous election orders made by us; and upon full consideration of the matter, we came to the conclusion that if we issued a comprehensive statement of the law in codified form, covering the entire procedure in regard to elections, it would tend materially to

facilitate the proper discharge of the duties devolving on local officers. Proceeding then on these lines, we made on the 1st December, 1919, a consolidated election order, entitled *The Local Elections (P.R.I.) Order, 1919*. In promulgating this order to the authorities concerned, we took the opportunity to forward to them a memorandum containing suggestions for the practical conduct of the elections.

We foresaw that the success of the new procedure would depend, to a large extent, upon the several election officials being able to apply readily in practice the rules and regulations embodied in our Order for the counting and transferring of votes. As the time available for educational purposes and for making the necessary election arrangements was, however, very limited, we secured the services of the Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of England, and others, who delivered lectures on the system of Proportional Representation and gave practical demonstrations of the method to be employed in the counting of the votes at various convenient centres throughout the country. The lectures were well attended, the officials concerned availing themselves fully of the instruction afforded, and we are pleased to be in a position to state that having regard thereto and to the model elections held by the several officers locally, supplemented by the exertions of the Proportional Representation Society of Ireland, who undertook the education of the electorate, the elections held on the 15th of January, 1920, for county borough, borough and urban district councillors and town commissioners were carried on throughout the country most successfully. We gladly take this opportunity to thank the Proportional Representation Society for their whole-hearted co-operation and invaluable assistance.

While this educational work was being carried out in the country we proceeded to put into operation the powers conferred by section 1 (4) of the Act which authorised us to increase or otherwise alter the scales of election expenses fixed from time to time by county councils pursuant to article 6 of the schedule to the *Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898*, so as to render them applicable to the elections to be carried out under the new system.

We confined our attention, in the first instance, to the scales of expenses for the municipal elections to be held in January, 1920, and having considered the rates allowed by the existing scales and having obtained other necessary information we decided to make the necessary Orders; one applicable to the six county boroughs (subsequently modified in the case of Dublin) and three applicable to the urban districts (including the other boroughs) and towns classified in accordance with the size of the electorates and named in the respective Schedules.

The Orders were as follows :—

Number.	Name of Order.	Authorities to whom Applicable.
66188 : 1919.	Election Expenses Order No. I.	County Boroughs ... 6
67137 : 1919.	Election Expenses Order	County Borough of Dublin ... 1
787 : 1920.	Election Expenses Order No. II.	Urban Districts ... 15
787 : 1920.	Election Expenses Order No. III.	Urban Districts ... 22
787 : 1920.	Election Expenses Order No. IV.	Urban Districts and Towns ... 56 ... 27

The result of the Municipal Elections held in January, 1920, is summarized in the following table :—

Particulars in regard to	County Boroughs.	Non-County Boroughs.	Urban Districts.	Towns Commissioners.	Total.
Number of Electors on Register ...	203,410	13,367	154,632	13,583	474,992
Number of Members to be elected ...	308	84	1,148	195	1,735
Number of Candidates :					
Nominations ...	663	133	2,238	338	3,412
Withdrawals ...	20	3	235	23	287
Remainder ...	657	150	2,023	315	3,125
Number of Valid Ballot Papers ...	193,393	9,687	109,420	9,744	322,244
Number of Invalid Ballot Papers :—					
Want of Official Mark	610	10	62	7	689
Void under Art. 41 of Local Elections (P.R.I.) Order 1919					
(a)	309	37	363	40	749
(b)	2,357	133	1,363	141	3,994
(c)	55	3	114	23	197
(d)	961	68	1,107	208	2,344
Writing or Mark by which Voter could be identified ...	353	26	174	18	571
Unmarked or Void for uncertainty	449	4	241	21	715
Total Number of Invalid Ballot Papers ...	5,094	281	3,424	469	9,268
Total Number of Ballot Papers (valid & invalid)	198,487	9,968	112,844	10,213	331,512
Percentage of Electors who voted ...	67.65	74.59	72.96	75.12	69.79
Percentage of Voters who voted validly ...	97.43	97.18	96.97	95.49	97.21
Percentage of Voters who voted invalidly ...	2.57	2.82	3.03	4.51	2.79
Number of Local Electoral Areas ...	40	12	204	39	295
Number of Areas in which Contests took place	39	10	183	27	269

Since January of the present year, we made similar arrangements for the instruction of the officers who were to be engaged in the elections of county Councillors, rural district councillors and guardians in urban districts at the end of May and the beginning of June.

Westport Urban District.

An anomalous situation arose in the urban district of Westport out of the triennial elections which were held in January, 1920. For the 18 vacancies on the urban council, only 4 candidates were nominated, and of these, only 2 accepted office. The number of members necessary to form a quorum was 5 and, in the circumstances, we communicated with Mayo county council, upon which body, under the provisions of Article 7 (2) of the Schedule to the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, devolved the authority to take any necessary steps for the proper holding of an election and the proper constitution of the urban council. The county council had the matter under consideration at a meeting on the 21st February, 1920, and they directed a fresh election of urban district councillors in Westport to be held on the 15th March, 1920, and appointed a number of persons to act as urban councillors in the meantime. At this special election only one candidate was nominated and he was duly declared elected, bringing the number of urban councillors to three, a number still insufficient to form a quorum. The temporary members appointed by the county council ceased to hold office upon the newly elected members making the declaration of acceptance of office, and as there is no properly constituted Council in existence, there is consequently no authority competent to strike and levy rates and to carry out the necessary business of the Urban District. Until a sufficient number of persons are willing to come forward and accept office and thus justify the holding of another special election, the existing state of affairs cannot be remedied except by legislation.

POOR RATE COLLECTION.

The Poor Rate Collection for the year under review was satisfactory. Out of 726 Collection Districts there were only 7 Districts in which the collection was not closed by the appointed time (31st March). In four of these cases the delay was due to the death or illness of the Collector and the consequent necessity for appointing a successor or substitute. The remaining three cases are under consideration, and we are taking the necessary disciplinary action in the matter.

The following table gives the number of Districts in each County in which the Collections were closed by the 28th February, and it will be seen from comparison with the previous year's

report that the number of such Collection Districts (163) shows an increase on the previous year's figures (149).

Antrim	...	...	29	out of 29	districts
Armagh	...	...	8	"	12 "
Donegal	...	...	8	"	37 "
Down	...	...	30	"	30 "
Fermanagh	...	...	8	"	12 "
Galway	...	...	30	"	38 "
Leitrim	...	...	1	"	20 "
Londonderry	...	...	11	"	11 "
Limerick	...	...	18	"	26 "
Mayo	...	...	9	"	40 "
Tipperary (S.R.)	...	...	9	"	12 "
Wicklow	...	...	2	"	19 "

In a considerable number of cases the County Councils allowed an increase of poundage to the Collectors for early lodgments and where this practice is adopted a marked improvement has resulted.

During the year we found it necessary to issue an Order amending the provisions of the Public Bodies Order, 1904, with respect to the appointment of Poor Rate Collectors, having regard to the terms of the Sex (Disqualification Removal) Act, 1919, which made women eligible for this office. We also found it necessary to prescribe a new form of Rate Book, as owing to the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, it is no longer necessary to use the Rate Books for franchise purposes.

A case decided in the King's Bench Division of the High Court ("County Council of Donegal v. Margaret McCrossan and Elizabeth McCrossan") was of considerable importance in connection with the making of rates and we considered it advisable to issue a Circular Letter to County Councils, County Borough Councils and Urban District Councils, as rating authorities, summarising the case and the decision given thereon. The facts are as follows :

A Mrs. Breslin was rated in respect of certain lands of which she was not in occupation when the rate was made. The defendants were in occupation, but were not rated. The question for decision which came before the Court on a case stated was whether the defendants were liable to pay the Poor Rate for the period during which Mrs. Breslin was rated as the occupier of the lands. The Court answered the question in the negative and laid it down that in order to have a valid rate where there is an occupier, the occupier upon whom the rate is made must be named, or at least sufficiently described to be capable of identification, and that if this is not done no valid rate has been made.

In our letter we impressed upon Councils the necessity of having the occupier either named or so sufficiently described as to be capable of identification, and pointed out that the

responsibility for having the names accurately inserted in the rate book rests upon the rating authority and their officers, and we suggested the advisability of bringing the matter under the notice of the Rate Collectors and all officers responsible for the preparation of the rate book.

The collection of the Poor Rate in the Urban Districts was very satisfactory and calls for no special comment. The number of Urban Districts in which the collection was closed by the 28th February was twenty-seven as compared with twenty-four for the previous year. A list of the twenty-seven Districts is appended.

Armagh	Donaghadee	Newtownards
Athy	Dungannon	Omagh
Ballina	Keady	Portadown
Ballymena	Kells	Portrush
Bangor	Killarney	Portstewart
Birr	Killiney and Ballybrack	Sligo
Bray	Larne	Tanderagee
Cashel	Letterkenny	Trim
Castlebar	Newcastle	Warrenpoint.

CRIMINAL INJURIES (IRELAND) ACT, 1919.

The Criminal Injuries (Ireland) Act, 1919, which received the Royal Assent on the 16th April, 1919, modified the provisions of the existing Criminal Injuries Acts in regard to the payment by County and County Borough Councils of compensation. Hitherto it was not obligatory on such Councils to pay the amount of a decree obtained in respect of any criminal injury until the sum had been assessed and levied off the particular area of charge. Under the new Act the obligation is imposed on the Council concerned to pay on demand the amount of a decree obtained for compensation in respect of injury to the person, and it is provided that the payment may be enforced under Section 80 (1) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, whether the amount has or has not been levied. The latter Section requires the Treasurer of the Council in the case of a decree of a competent Court to pay the authorised sum out of the monies under his control as Treasurer and if these are insufficient out of the first monies coming under his control as Treasurer. We drew the attention of the Councils and their Treasurers to the terms of the new Act and pointed out the proper procedure to be followed in cases of this nature.

It was decided in the case of *Rex (Barham) v. Leitrim County Council* [K.B.D.] that the new Act does not apply in cases other than those of injury to the person.

ROADS.

By an Order of His Majesty in Council made on the 20th December, 1919, in accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Transport Act, 1919, there were transferred to the Ministry of Transport as from the 1st January, 1920, the powers and duties of the Local Government Board in relation to roads, bridges and ferries, and vehicles and traffic thereon, together with certain other matters specified in the Order. The Order, however, excepted from such transfer the powers and duties of the Board with respect to (1) The giving of sanction for loans to be raised by local authorities, (2) The audit of the accounts of Local Authorities, and (3) powers and duties under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, 1890-1919. It is provided in the Order that in the exercise of the powers excepted from such transfer, so far as they relate to roads, bridges, vehicles and traffic thereon, we shall act in consultation with the Minister of Transport.

In the circumstances our review of road matters will not cover the entire year.

During the year the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury decided that the control exercised on their behalf over the raising of new capital in the market during the War need no longer be maintained, and in view of this relaxation of control, local authorities freely exercised their borrowing powers, and the amount of free grants from the Road Improvement Fund also shows a large increase as compared with recent years. Loans to the total amount of £123,308 to County Councils and Urban District Councils were sanctioned to defray the cost of road improvement and the rebuilding of bridges. One loan was obtained from the Road Board free of interest. Grants to the total amount of £431,609 from the Road Improvement Fund were allocated to Irish Road Authorities by the Road Board or Ministry of Transport during the year.

We referred in our previous report to the difficulties which the increased cost of road materials and the general payment of increased wages have placed in the way of road maintenance. These difficulties continued during the year under review and it has consequently been necessary in a very large number of cases to extend the limit of expenditure on roads. During the nine months ended 30th December last we made no fewer than 120 Orders under Section 27 (2) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, extending the previously authorised limit of expenditure for this purpose. Of these extensions, however, only three were permanent. Our functions under this Section are among the matters transferred to the Ministry of Transport under the Order in Council referred to.

In the course of the nine months ended 31st December, 1919, we made Orders approving of schemes formulated by the County Councils concerned for the maintenance by direct labour of roads

in the Rural District of Ballymahon, County Longford, and in the Rural District of Gort, County Galway, where formal schemes had not hitherto been in operation. We also made Orders approving of new schemes prepared by the County Councils of Armagh, Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, King's County, Longford, Tipperary (S.R.), and Westmeath for the renewal of schemes which had lapsed on the expiration of the statutory period of three years. On the 1st January we had under consideration schemes formulated by the County Councils of Antrim, Carlow, Down, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Longford, Sligo and Westmeath for certain districts in these Counties, and the documents in these cases were in due course forwarded to the Ministry of Transport.

We held a local inquiry into an appeal received by us from the Kilmaethomas Rural District Council against a new declaration made by the Waterford County Council under Section 8 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, declaring certain roads in the County to be main roads from and after the 1st October, 1919. In our opinion sufficient grounds were not shown for setting aside the County Council's declaration and we accordingly dismissed the appeal. The documents in connection with an appeal received against a declaration of main roads formulated by the King's County Council were forwarded to the Ministry of Transport.

We also referred to the Ministry of Transport the question of confirming bye-laws framed by the Louth County Council for granting annual licences for locomotives used within their area other than for agricultural purposes and for charging a fee in respect thereof.

MOTOR CARS.

Under the Expiring Laws Continuance Act of 1919, the Motor Car Act, 1903, was continued in force until the 31 December, 1920.

Representations having repeatedly been made to us pointing out the serious nuisance and damage caused by mud-splashing from heavy motor vehicles on public roads, we considered it advisable in the interests of the public to take action in the matter, and on the 30th May, 1919, having first satisfied ourselves that a reasonably efficient splash-guard was available, we made an Order, entitled the Heavy Motor Car (Ireland) (Amendment) Order, 1919, requiring that all vehicles coming within the scope of the Heavy Motor Car (Ireland) Order, 1905, be fitted with such a device as will prevent mud or water being thrown upon any person or property or upon any other vehicle. To allow reasonable notice of the new requirement, the Order did not come into operation until the 1st October, 1919.

In a few cases where local bodies proposed that the driving of motor cars in certain areas should be limited to a speed less than the maximum fixed by the Motor Car Act, we explained the

existing statutory provisions on the subject and the procedure to be followed in connection with applications for regulations fixing new speed limits.

Under the Order in Council already referred to our powers and duties in relation to motor vehicles were transferred as from the 1st January, 1920, to the Ministry of Transport.

The yield of the Motor Car Licence Duties levied in Ireland for the year ended 31st March, 1919, as notified to us by the Postmaster General, was £31,070 12s. 11d., being £2,165 10s. 2d. in excess of the previous year. The usual percentage accruing to County and County Borough Councils was duly paid to their credit during the year.

BONUSES TO OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

We referred in our previous report to the issue of a circular letter to local authorities setting forth the Civil Service Scale of bonuses with a view to ensuring that grants of bonuses by local authorities to their officers should follow a uniform principle. During the year two further awards of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Government Employees (Nos. 84 and 101) were promulgated, and in due course we communicated the scales of bonuses authorised by these Awards to the local authorities.

DISPOSAL OF CORPORATE PROPERTY.

No question calling for special remark arose in the course of the year out of the operations of local authorities under this head.

PUBLIC PARKS (IRELAND) ACT, 1869.

Our attention was drawn by the Belfast County Borough Council to an anomaly created in the provisions of Section 6 of the Public Parks (Ireland) Act, 1869, by the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1919, which, amongst other things, instituted triennial elections in Urban Districts. We accordingly under the powers vested in Us by Section 10 (1) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1919, issued an Order adapting the provisions of Section 6 of the Public Parks (Ireland) Act, 1869, by the substitution in the Section of the word "meeting" for the word "election."

COUNTY SURVEYORS AND ASSISTANT COUNTY SURVEYORS.

We approved of the appointment of a County Surveyor in County Galway to fill the vacancy in that County referred to in our last report. In the course of the year vacancies arose in the

offices of County Surveyor in the Counties of Kerry and Roscommon, and we were notified of a forthcoming vacancy in County Tipperary (S.R.). Arrangements were accordingly made for an examination to be held by the Civil Service Commissioners of the eligible applicants for the respective districts. The Kerry County Council decided to appoint two County Surveyors for the County in place of the one previous appointment.

No general examination of candidates desiring to qualify for appointment as Assistant Surveyor was held during the year.

ALTERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS.

Proceedings were instituted during the year for the adoption of the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, in the towns of Ballycastle (County Antrim) and Passage West (County Cork). We made Orders in these cases approving the boundaries and directing the holding of the necessary meetings of local electors. The meetings held being in favour of the adoption of the Act we issued further Orders declaring the Act to be in force in these Towns.

The provisions of the Act came into force in Ballycastle on the 1st day of February, 1920, and in Passage West on the 1st day of May, 1920.

RIVER NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1914.

Under the powers given to Us by Sections 5 and 7 of the River Navigation Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1914, we made an Order prescribing the procedure to be carried out by County and District Councils as regards the levying and the chargeability of expenses under the Act. Our functions under this Act have been transferred to the Ministry of Transport by the Order in Council of the 20th December, 1919.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1898—SECTION 66.

We issued the usual certificates under this Section of the sums to be paid to us by the Corporation of Dublin and the Dublin County Council to meet payments in respects of the pensions of the staff of the former Collector General of Rates in Dublin, the total sums payable by the City and County being the same as in last year.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

Section 51 (7) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and Section 4 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902.

The number of applications for extension of time for the payment by local authorities of accounts due out of the poor rate

was substantially the same as last year. The number of cases in which we refused to grant these applications has, however, slightly increased, and we continue to impress on the local authorities the necessity of meeting the debts incurred in any particular year out of the rates raised for that year.

MEETING OF PUBLIC BODIES.

During the year, at the request of the public bodies concerned, we made Orders in pursuance of Section 14 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902, altering the time at which the statutory monthly meetings may be held in the Urban Districts of Bray, Dungannon, Enniscorthy, Howth, Killiney and Ballybrack, Kingstown, Strabane, Tralee, Warrenpoint and Wexford; and in the Towns of Antrim and Newcastle (Co. Limerick).

The number of Orders made under this Section shows a considerable increase over that of the previous year, when only two Orders were made.

GENERAL CATTLE DISEASES FUND.

In accordance with a certificate furnished by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, showing that a sum equivalent to a rating of one farthing in the pound on the net annual value of the property in all Irish administrative counties was required for the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 to 1914, we made an Order on the 10th February, 1920, assessing the amount certified on the several counties and county boroughs according to their respective valuations.

JURIES (IRELAND) ACTS.

An Order in Council was made on the 26th November, 1919, fixing a new scale of expenses of Clerks of the Crown and Peace and local officers in carrying into execution the several purposes of the Juries (Ireland) Acts. The Order revoked previous Orders in Council of the 18th December, 1877, and 21st December, 1903, on the subject. The new Order does not apply to the Town Clerk of Dublin nor to the Poor Rate Collectors in Dublin County Borough. We issued copies of the Order to the local authorities concerned with a covering circular dated 10th December, 1919.

SLIGO CORPORATION ACT, 1918.

In pursuance of Section 9 of the Sligo Corporation Act, 1918, we made an Order on the 30th October, 1919, prescribing regulations with respect to the qualification, appointment, salary and tenure of office of officers of the Sligo Corporation.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (IRELAND) ACTS,
1914-1917.

Two additional local authorities were authorised by us during the year to incur expenditure from the rates on the provision of School Meals, viz. : Waterford Corporation and Youghal Urban District Council. The total amount spent out of the rates on the provision of food during the year ended 31st March, 1919, was £12,138 14s. 4d. of which one-half was recouped by us out of the Parliamentary Grant.

SUPERANNUATION UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1919.

Section 8 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1919, provides that "if any officer of a local authority who holds on the passing of this Act a pensionable office is removed from his office for any cause other than misconduct or incapacity, or resigns his office with the sanction of the Local Government Board, he shall, without prejudice to any other right, be entitled to receive from the local authority an allowance not exceeding two-thirds of the salary, fees and emoluments which he was in receipt of at the time of the removal or resignation, and not less than an allowance calculated according to the scale provided by the Superannuation Acts, 1834 to 1892, and the rules thereunder, if at that time he has served as an officer of the local authority for not less than ten years, or a gratuity according to the Scale in Part I of the Seventh Schedule to the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, if he has so served for less than ten years, and the right to and amount of any such allowance or gratuity shall, in case of dispute, be determined by the Local Government Board.

In the application of the Section to an officer of a committee or joint committee appointed for the purposes of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, the sanction of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction is substituted for that of the Local Government Board. The section is made applicable to whole-time officers of committees of local authorities or joint committees of several local authorities, and also to any person duly appointed standing solicitor of a local authority before the passing of the Act, notwithstanding that his whole time is not devoted to the duties of his office.

In the course of the year we sanctioned a considerable number of resignations, chiefly on the grounds of old age and long service or permanent infirmity of mind or body.

We also issued a number of orders determining the right to and amount of superannuation allowances and gratuities payable by local authorities in cases where the amount allowed by the local authority was disputed, or where the local authority refused to consider the matter.

Owing to a dispute between the Limerick County Borough Technical Instruction Committee and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction which resulted in the Committee declining to have any further dealings with the Department, thus depriving the committee's officers of their status under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Acts, those officers in September, 1919, resigned their appointments with the Department's sanction, and applied to the Limerick Corporation to fix the compensation payable to them under Section 8 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1919. The Corporation took no action on this application, and the officers then appealed to us to fix the amounts to which they would be entitled, and in accordance with our powers under the Section we issued on the 26th January, 1920, Orders under Seal fixing the amount of compensation payable to each officer.

OLD AGE PENSIONS ACTS, 1908 TO 1919.

The following tables give particulars relating to the Appeals dealt with by the Board in pursuance of these Acts during the year.

1. (1) No. of appeals received from the Pensions Officers			
. during the year ended 31st March, 1920	...	5960	
(2) No. of appeals received from other persons	...	716	
	Total	...	6676
2. (1) No. of appeals on claims decided during the year			
ended 31st March, 1920	...	4939	
(2) No. of appeals on questions decided	...	674	
	Total No. of appeals decided during the year		5613
3. (1) No. of claims allowed at maximum rate	614		
No. of claims allowed at less than maximum rate	772		
			1386
(2) No. of claims rejected on Age	...	1949	
Means	...	1444	
Residence	...	26	
Nationality	...	5	
Imprisonment	...	3	
Relief	...	13	
Disqualification			
under Order of			
Court	...	—	
Failure to work		—	
		3440	3440
(3) Appeals dismissed, late, etc., on claims		113	113
	Total	...	4939

4. (1) Appeals on Questions :—

Pensions unaltered ...	...	161	
Pensions raised ...	...	52	
Pensions reduced ...	...	42	
Pensions revoked, Age	...	2	
Means	...	154	
Residence	...	—	
Nationality	...	—	
Failure to work	...	—	
Imprisonment	...	1	
Relief	...	251	
Disqualification under Order of Court	...	—	
Maintenance in Lunatic Asylum	...	3	
		411	411
(2) Appeals dismissed late on questions	...		8
Total	...		674

The total No. of appeals received from the passing of the Act of 1908, till the 31st March, 1920, was 102421.
And the total No. of cases decided in the same period was 100680

On the 23rd December, 1919, the Old Age Pensions Act, 1919, received the Royal Assent. Under this Act, which came into operation on the 2nd January, 1920, the maximum rate of pension is increased to 10s. a week, and the limit of means which a claimant may possess to be entitled to a pension at this rate is fixed at £26 5s. a year. The limit of means, beyond which no pension can be allowed, is fixed at £49 17s. 6d. a year. The statutory conditions in the previous Acts relating to nationality and residence in the United Kingdom are amended. A woman who is a British subject and marries an alien, is no longer debarred from receiving a pension merely because of her husband's nationality; and a claimant for a pension must have resided in the United Kingdom for an aggregate period of not less than twelve years since attaining the age of fifty years (instead of twelve years out of the previous twenty).

The poor relief disqualification has been altered so that a person is disqualified for the receipt of a pension while he is an inmate of a workhouse or other poor law institution, provided that if he becomes an inmate for the purpose of obtaining medical or surgical treatment he shall not be disqualified for a period of three months after admission, should he continue to require such treatment for so long.

The disqualifications owing to failure to work, and for conviction for an offence under the Inebriates Act, 1898, and the disqualification for a period after release of a person sentenced to a term of imprisonment, are removed under the Act.

A pension is now payable not from the Friday following the date of the Committee's decision on the claim, but from the Friday following the date of receipt of the claim by the Pension Officer, provided the claimant is eligible on that date.

There is also provision for enabling claims to be made on behalf of persons mentally incapable.

The Act resulted in a very large increase in the number of claims in the last three months of the year, besides involving a revision of existing pensions. The bulk of this work fell on the local Pension Officers and the local Pension Committees, and so far as we can judge, it was expeditiously performed.

The increase in the number of claims has, of course, been accompanied by a very considerable increase in the number of appeals made to Us.

WAR RELIEF.

In June, 1919, it was decided by the Executive Committee of the National Relief Fund that the time had come for the general discontinuance of the system of assistance to persons included in the civilian population suffering distress in consequence of the War; and, in conformity with that decision, we requested the Local Representative Committees to adopt no new applications and to inform any persons to whom they were affording assistance that such assistance would not be available after 31st of July, 1919. It was, however, realised that in the case of repatriated civilians or refugees in distress, and also in a limited number of cases of continuing need directly due to the War, some relief would be necessary after this period which should be met by the Fund, and provision was accordingly made by us to deal with such applications under these heads as would arise.

Practically all the war relief measures which had been undertaken had already been suspended by the Local Committees, the chief exception being those administered in the City of Dublin; and in this instance it was not found possible to terminate operations within the time allowed, as the Local Committee had certain outstanding commitments in connection with their Farm Colony and Market Gardening Schemes, which could not be finally disposed of until a later period in the year, when the season's crops had been saved. The lands which the Committee held at Marino, Clontarf, and at Fairview, being corporate property, then reverted to the Corporation of Dublin; to whom the Committee, with our approval, also transferred the premises and lands at Killester. The latter lands were subsequently made available for the purposes of a housing scheme under the Irish Land (Provision for Sailors and Soldiers) Act, 1919.

The total expenditure from the National Relief Fund during the year under review was £3,488 19s. 11d.

*British-Born Wives and Children of Interned Aliens
and other Destitute Aliens.*

The arrangements for the provision of assistance through Boards of Guardians to the British-born wives and children of Aliens, were continued to the 31st March, 1920, the relief so afforded being recouped quarterly by us to the Guardians. No assistance has been granted since that date. In the last quarter of the year, the allowances were restricted to the British-born wives and children who remained in this country after the repatriation of their husbands. The expenditure incurred within the year amounted to £1,884 10s. 7d. We also recouped a sum of £47 6s. 11d. in respect of the cost of maintenance of a lunatic alien who was an inmate of a District Lunatic Asylum.

FOOD PRODUCTION.

The Allotment Schemes provided by Borough and Urban Councils were continued during the Spring of 1920. The area tilled was somewhat less than in the season of 1919, due mainly to the withdrawal from cultivation of lands required for building, to the expiry of leases of lands obtained for allotments in 1917, and to the growing difficulties of obtaining new sites at moderate rents within reasonable distance of the workers' homes. In several districts the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland found it necessary to exercise the compulsory powers vested in them by virtue of 2L of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and in continuance of the arrangement adopted in previous years, the inquiries which were deemed necessary with a view of ascertaining whether the conditions laid down in the Regulations were satisfied, viz. : that land was immediately required for cultivation in allotments, and that its use for that purpose was unreasonably withheld, were held locally by our Inspectors.

The total area under cultivation in allotments at the end of March, 1920, was, approximately, 1,800 statute acres, the number of allotments provided being about 15,700.

Under the War Emergency Laws (Continuance) Act, which received the Royal Assent on the 31st of March, 1920, the provisions of the Local Government (Allotments and Land Cultivation) (Ireland) Act, 1917, which limited the promotion of allotment schemes by Urban Authorities during the period of the War, were extended so as to provide for the cultivation of land during twelve months after the termination of the War.

RECONSTRUCTION WORKS.

Shortly before the commencement of the financial year 1919-1920, a Parliamentary Grant of £250,000 was made available for approved works of public utility for the employment of demobilised men. The Fund was administered by the Chief

Secretary and an Inter-Departmental Committee; the works approved of being allocated to the appropriate Departments to make arrangements for their execution. We append below a list of the works entrusted to us which were in progress during the course of the year.

Description of Works.

County Antrim.—Construction of a road between the western half of Islandmagee and the North Ferry crossing the entrance of Larne Lough to Larne Harbour—£1,000.

County Armagh.—Construction of a protection wall along the Southern shore of Lough Neagh.—£3,000.

Construction of a road at Ballyoran near Portadown.—£400.

County Clare.—Steam-rolling of the road from Kilrush to Kilkee.—£3,000.

County Cork.—Reconstruction of the road from Castletown to Allihies.—£5,500.

County Donegal.—Construction of a road between Malin Town and Malin Head.—£2,300. Reconstruction of Horn Head Road.—£600. Construction of Rosguill Road from Moovagh School to Doocy.—£1,285. Construction of a road in Glencolumbkille District, leading through the townlands of Maghera, Laconnell and Larginascearagh.—£1,500. Construction of three roads in the townland of Meenbannad near Burtonport—£1,500.

County Down.—Construction of a protection wall along the approach road to Kilkeel Harbour—£1,500.

County Galway.—Widening of road at Bridge Street, Galway; Stone-crushing at Shantalla Quarry; Taking up of setts on disused tram-line from Galway to Salthill and relaying of road; Improvements at Galway Harbour—£8,500. Cleaning and deepening the River Suck at Ballinasloe and raising of road material for roads in the Urban District of Ballinasloe—£1,500.

County Kerry.—Improvement of roads in the vicinity of Dingle—£2,000.

County Leitrim.—Construction of a bridge over the Yellow River at Downa—£250.

County Mayo.—Erection of Kiltinagh Cottage Hospital—£3,000.

County Roscommon.—Construction of road along South side of Kilronan Mountain leading to the new Rockhill Colliery—£2,400. Widening of the viaduct on the trunk road from Westport and Galway where it enters Castlerea Town—£1,500.

Belfast County Borough.—Preparation of reclaimed land for Garden Plots; Cutting Channel on foreshore to improve drainage; Improvement of Blackstaff River; Improvement works at Victoria Park, Bellevue Gardens, and Sydenham Embankment—£8,000.

Dublin County Borough.—Concreting of footpath at East Wall; Construction of new road connecting Alexandra Road with Alexandra Wharf; Reclamation of Sloblands, Clontarf; Improvements at Bullock Harbour—£6,050.

Londonderry County Borough.—Street Improvements—£3,870.

II.—POOR RELIEF.

Statistics of Pauperism.

The following statement, compiled from the weekly returns furnished to us by Clerks of the Unions, shows the numbers in receipt of the different forms of relief on the last Saturday of March in each of the past five years :—

	1920.	1919	1918	1917	1916
<i>In Workhouses.</i>					
Sick in workhouse hospitals and infirmaries ...	13,105	13,287	12,721	13,398	14,046
Aged and infirm in workhouses ...	3,825	3,804	7,015	8,395	8,788
Children under 15 in workhouses other than those sick in hospital	2,844	2,920	3,270	3,756	3,700
Lunatics, idiots, and epileptics other than those sick in hospital	1,331	1,350	1,720	1,884	1,934
Mothers having infant children ...	435	353	413	484	539
All other classes ...	1,991	2,027	2,563	2,743	2,830
<i>In extern Institutions or Homes</i>					
In extern hospitals ...	242	162	249	388	303
In institutions for the blind, deaf, and dumb, and idiots and imbeciles.	876	901	924	932	972
In Trim and Glan district schools ...	343	345	354	344	334
Children out at nurse or boarded-out	2,119	2,184	2,306	2,264	2,495
Children in certified schools ...	80	66	72	77	66
<i>On Outdoor Relief (other than children boarded-out and in certified schools).</i>					
Under Sec. 1 of Act 10 Vic., c. 31 ...	33,449	32,110	31,382	31,773	31,816
Under Sec. 7 of Act 30 Vic., c. 31, and Sec. 4 of 11 and 12 Vic., c. 47	903	1,183	902	1,054	983
Under Orders pursuant to Sec. 13 of the Local Govt. (L.) Act 1898.	—	—	—	—	—
Total number of persons in receipt of relief on last Saturday in March	63,534	62,701	63,711	67,522	68,884
<i>Average daily number.</i>					
Indoor (including those in extern institutions)	25,430	26,817	29,253	31,398	32,095
Outdoor ...	35,422	34,796	34,947	34,556	36,638
Total daily average number on indoor and Outdoor relief.	60,852	61,613	64,200	65,942	68,733

It will be seen from the foregoing that there has been no very marked change in the number in receipt of relief during the past year as compared with the previous year. The total number of inmates of Workhouses was, however, 219 fewer in March, 1920, than in March, 1919. The only classes in which there were increases were the aged and infirm and mothers having infant children, of whom there were, respectively, 21 and 82 more on the 27th March, 1920, than at the corresponding date in the previous year. Reductions in other classes were as follows :—

Sick in Workhouse hospitals and Infirmaries	182
Children ...	76
Lunatics ...	28
Other classes ...	36

The number in receipt of out-door relief was 1,050 more at the end of March, 1920, than at the corresponding period in the previous year, but the average number on that form of relief for the whole year showed only an increase of 626.

The total average number in receipt of relief during the year, viz., 60,852, represented a pauperism of 1 in every 73 of the estimated population of the country, as compared with 1 in every 48 ten years ago.

Pauper Children.

As regards pauper children, 343 were, on the 27th March last, maintained in the two District Schools of Trim and Glin; 597 in the Dublin Union Poor Law Schools; 80 were in schools certified by us under the Pauper Children Acts, and 2,119 were boarded out in foster homes throughout the country. The number in Workhouses has decreased from 2,920 to 2,844 since our last Report.

Lunatics, Idiots and Epileptics.

There has been a decrease in the number of this class maintained in the Workhouse, of 28 as compared with the preceding year or of 603 as compared with the year 1916. There are, however, still 1,331 of these afflicted persons maintained in Irish Workhouses, besides those sick in hospital.

Deaths in Workhouses.

The total number of deaths in workhouses during the period of 52 weeks under review was 8,580, being a decrease of 3,535 on the previous year. The high mortality of 1918-19 was caused by the epidemics of influenza which occurred that year.

The deaths included 6 centenarians, one of whom was stated to have been 109 years of age, another 106 years, and another 102 years.

There were 1,147 deaths from tuberculosis, as compared with 1,487 in the preceding year, being a decrease of 340.

There was a decrease of 369 in the deaths of infants and children, as follows:—

1 year and under, a decrease of ...	... 93
1 to 5 years " ...	... 126
5 to 15 years " ...	... 150

The deaths from scarlatina were 121 more than in the preceding year.

The number of deaths from cancer, viz., 444 although 17 more than in previous year, compares favourably with the average for the preceding 5 years, which was 536.

Nursing in Workhouse Hospitals.

The nursing staffs in Workhouse Hospitals were practically of the same strength as in previous year, 280 "trained" and 251 "qualified" nurses; 342 nursing sisters (Nuns) and 170 probationer nurses.

District Hospital.

The Board of Guardians of Callan Union converted their hospital into a district hospital under the provisions of Sec. 90 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and have transferred their duties and powers as regards the institution to a Committee of Governors. Regulations for the management of the establishment have been framed and sanctioned. This is the second instance in which a workhouse hospital has been dealt with under Sec. 90, the other case being that of Castle-comer.

Dietaries of Inmates and Rations of Officers.

Emergency arrangements were made during the war with a view to economy in food. In some Unions it became necessary temporarily to abandon the revised and improved scales of dietary, owing to difficulty in procuring certain items of food, but the revised dietaries are gradually being reverted to, and it is also hoped that Unions which had not hitherto adopted the new system will do so at an early date.

Amalgamation of Unions.

There was no Order made for this purpose during the year.

*Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1914 (as amended by
6 and 7 Geo. 5, Ch. 12).*

Under these Acts we have power to modify or repeal the provisions of S. 19 of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1847, which prohibit the giving of relief to persons not within the Union when so relieved, if we deem it expedient for the better administration of the Poor Law, and we have accordingly authorized the boarding out of certain classes of the destitute poor of the following Unions in the Workhouses of adjoining Unions, namely:—

Province of Ulster.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Co. Antrim— | Antrim Union, Healthy boarded-out in Ballymena Workhouse. |
| | Ballymoney Union, Healthy boarded-out in Coleraine Workhouse. |
| | Larne Union, Healthy boarded-out in Ballymena Workhouse. |
| | Lisburn Union, Healthy boarded-out in Lurgan Workhouse. |
| Co. Donegal— | Dunfanaghy Union, Healthy and Sick (except cases of infectious disease) boarded out in Milford Workhouse. |
| Co. Down— | Kilkeel Union, Healthy boarded-out in Newry Workhouse. |
| Co. Fermanagh— | Irvinestown Union, Healthy and sick boarded-out in Enniskillen Workhouse. |

- Co. Tyrone— Clogher Union, Healthy boarded-out in Enniskillen Workhouse.
 Cookstown Union, Healthy and Sick boarded-out in Dungannon Workhouse.
 Strabane Union, Healthy boarded-out in Londonderry Workhouse.

Province of Munster.

- Co. Cork— Castletown Union, Healthy boarded-out in Kenmare Workhouse.
 Co. Waterford—Kilmacthomas Union, Healthy boarded-out in Dungarvan and Waterford Workhouses.

Province of Leinster.

- Co. Dublin— Rathdown Union, Healthy boarded-out in Dublin Workhouse.
 Co. Kilkenny— Callan Union, Healthy boarded-out in Thomastown Workhouse.
 Castlecomer Union, Healthy boarded-out in Thomastown Workhouse.
 Kilkenny Union, Healthy boarded-out in Thomastown Workhouse.
 Co. Meath— Dunshaughlin Union, Healthy and Sick boarded-out in Navan Workhouse.
 Oldcastle Union, Healthy and Sick boarded-out in Kells Workhouse.

Proposals to board out the poor from—

Balrothery Union in Drogheda Workhouse,
 Celbridge Union in Athy and Naas Workhouses,
 Claremorris Union in Castlebar Workhouse,
 Clogheen Union in Clonmel Workhouse,

are at present being considered.

Owing to the Military occupation, under the Defence of the Realm Act, in whole or in part of the Workhouses belonging to the following Unions the destitute poor are relieved in the Workhouses of adjoining Unions pursuant to the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts—

*Union Workhouse.**Extent of occupation.*

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Athlone, Co. Westmeath | The Workhouse, except the sick Wards. |
| Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow | The whole Workhouse. |
| Claremorris, Co. Mayo | The whole Workhouse. |
| Ennistymon, Co. Clare | The Workhouse, except the sick wards. |
| Kilmallock, Co. Limerick | The Workhouse, except the sick wards. |
| Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow | Only the Fever Hospital occupied by troops. |
| Tipperary, Co. Tipperary | The Workhouse, except the sick wards. |

Emigration.

We issued consent orders under the usual conditions, authorizing the assisted emigration of 11 persons during the year ended the 31st March, 1920, the expenditure incurred being £96 15s. 5d.

*Salaries of Clerks and Assistant Clerks of Unions
and Rural Districts.*

On the 21st November, 1919, We received a Deputation from the Union and Rural District Clerks' Association, who waited on us to represent that the remuneration of their members was inadequate in the financial exigencies of the times, and to request us to intervene in support of their claim for improved salaries.

It was arranged at that interview that as a first step the Association would approach the Boards of Guardians and the Rural District Councils and would submit for their consideration scales of graded salaries for Clerks and Assistant Clerks, and in that way elicit the views and attitude of the local bodies on the question.

This course was followed and a second Deputation came to us on the 20th February, 1920, to report progress and hand in copies of the applications that had been circulated. The Deputation stated that in a number of cases their communications had been ignored, and they urged us to fix the salaries ourselves by Order under Seal should the Guardians and Rural District Councils persist in their attitude. We promised this Deputation that we would give the question our consideration and expressed our willingness to support them in all proper steps to secure for their members scales of remuneration that would be commensurate with the extent and responsibility of their duties and at the same time reasonable to the ratepayers.

We are happy to report that since then there has been a very general and satisfactory response from the local bodies.

Their proposals, however, came in too late to be dealt with in the financial year, but since its close we have sanctioned scales in over 100 Unions and the included Rural Districts. Some further proposals are before us and are receiving consideration and we see every reason to hope that amicable agreements on this vexed question will be reached in all but a very few Unions, where, should a deadlock arise, it might ultimately become

necessary for us to accede to the request of the Clerks' Association and fix the salaries by Order.

Expenditure on Poor Relief.

The following summary, compiled from the abstracts of Union accounts, gives the main figures of interest in connection with poor law expenditure from revenue during the year ended 30th September, 1919, and the preceding year:—

	1919.	1918.
Poor Relief, other than Dispensary Medical Relief under the Medical Charities Act:—	£	£
In-maintenance	716,110	633,973
Out Relief	236,613	174,587
Salaries and rations of officers	317,777	286,864
Children boarded out	30,642	28,139
Children maintained in Trim and Glin district schools	11,815	10,208
Expenses of district hospitals	3,646	1,614
Cost of maintenance of paupers sent to extern hospitals, asylums for the blind, &c., by Guardians	21,646	26,775
Cost of medicines in workhouses	19,803	15,786
Other expenses	207,588	161,960
Total	1,565,640	1,341,908
Expenditure under the Medical Charities Act, and other Acts administered by the Guardians ..	357,548	300,684
Total poor relief expenditure	1,923,188	1,642,590

It will be observed that there was an increase of £223,734 in the total poor relief expenditure during the year. The in-maintenance showed an increase of £80,137, due to the enormously enhanced prices of commodities. The salaries and rations of officers, too, increased by the sum of £30,913.

The abnormal conditions of the times affected, as usual, the expenditure on poor relief.

Dispensary Medical Relief.

The following is a summary of the cases in which medical relief was afforded and of the expenditure under the Medical

Charities Act, during the year under review, and the previous year, arranged under the usual headings :—

	Year ended 31st March, 1920.	Previous year.
Number of new cases attended and registered during the Year :—		
1. At Dispensaries	396,467	424,182
2 At Patients' homes	144,130	238,386
Total number of new cases.. ..	540,597	662,568
Number of Vaccinations and Re-vaccinations performed	59,571	48,307
Salaries of Dispensary Medical Officers	£ 142,962	£ 126,618
Remuneration of temporary Dispensary Medical Officers	26,853	27,247
Total payment in respect of salaries of permanent and remuneration of temporary Medical Officers.	169,815	153,865
Salaries and payments for temporary services of Compounders of Medicine	5,628	5,215
Salaries of Midwives	27,248	24,549
Cost of medicines and appliances	34,540	31,545
Expenditure from Loans under the Dispensary Houses Act, 1879	810	70
Other expenses	37,525	30,944
Amount of fees paid to Medical Officers under the Compulsory Vaccination Act, 1879	5,626	4,803
Total expenses of Dispensary Districts	281,192	251,081

Medical Relief Cases.

The Medical Officers' Returns showed that during the past year 396,467 Cases had been attended at the Dispensaries and 144,130 at the patients' own homes. Complete statistics were not furnished in respect of one Dispensary District.

The increase in 1918-19 of over 100,000 in the reported number of patients attended that year at their homes as compared with the previous year was due mainly to the outbreaks of influenza that occurred in various parts of Ireland.

The figures for the past year indicated that the state of the public health had become practically normal.

Salaries of Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts.

The total sum paid in salaries to Dispensary Medical Officers during the past financial year amounted to £142,962, as compared with £126,618 in the previous year.

It was mentioned in our last Report that over 100 of the Boards of Guardians had granted improved remuneration to their Medical

Officers during the twelve months ended 31st March, 1919. In about a fifth of that number the proposals were made by Guardians who had not previously granted any increases. The scales in force in some eighty Unions were reconsidered and substantially augmented, and this process of revision and improvement has been continued during the year 1919-20. We noticed that many of the scales put forward in 1918-19 contained proposals to fix £250 a year as the maximum salary attainable after 15 or 20 years approved good service by Medical Officers of average sized Dispensary Districts.

A higher maximum (£300 a year) was only proposed in the case of a couple of Medical Officers who held important Urban Districts. During the year now under review quite a number of scales with the maximum of £300 were submitted and have been sanctioned. In addition to the maximum scale of £300 we also sanctioned temporarily, owing to the abnormally high cost of locomotion, extra allowances, in aid of travelling expenses, of £50 a year each to Medical Officers of certain large sized Dispensary Districts with scattered populations.

Since the inception, now several years ago, of the general movement for the betterment of the position of Medical Officers up till the end of March last 150 out of the 154 Boards of Guardians had granted the Doctors some increase of remuneration, graded scales, or bulk sums, but the amounts were not always commensurate with the needs of the times and the merits of the claims. Four Boards of Guardians had refused time after time whenever requested by their Medical Officers to grant any increases, and toward the end of last financial year we acceded to applications from the staffs and issued Orders under Seal regulating the salaries in two out of the four Unions, namely, Glenties and Mohill. In May last the Guardians of another of the outstanding Unions adopted a proposal which was accepted by the Medical Officers, and sanctioned by us, and subsequently in June last we fixed the salaries in the remaining Union, that of Strokestown.

An Order regulating the salaries of the Medical Officers of Dromore West Union was also issued at the end of last financial year. The Guardians of that Union had refused to add to the small increase of £25 which they granted in 1910, and the salary of £125 a year payable to each of the Medical Officers in March, 1920, was in our opinion insufficient in the circumstances.

In regulating the salaries, we adopted as standards for the respective Unions the graded scales current in adjoining and neighbouring Unions.

Alteration of Dispensary Districts,

There was no Order made for this purpose during the year.

Midwives of Dispensary Districts.

During the past year we authorised a few further appointments of Dispensary Midwives, bringing the total to 809. Midwives are employed in 696 out of the 739 Dispensary Districts in Ireland.

The Lying-in Hospitals in Dublin make provision for skilled nursing in the Maternity cases arising amongst the poor of the North and South Dispensary Districts of the City, and in consequence Midwives are not appointed by the Guardians to act officially in the old area of the City. Midwives and Nurses with midwifery qualifications are provided for the poor under local arrangements in some five or six Rural Dispensary Districts, but in the remaining 37 Dispensary Districts, the bulk of which are situate in the Counties of Antrim, Armagh, and Down, neither the Guardians nor Nursing bodies or societies have so far made provision for gratuitous maternity nursing. We explained in our last Report how we had been unable to take action in these cases owing to the absence of serious complaints either as regards insufficiency or indifferent quality of the available nursing. We trust that additional appointments of Midwives will be made by the Guardians concerned, and that a qualified Midwife will be available in the near future in every Medical Officer's district for free attendance upon the maternity patients of the dispensary class.

Returns were obtained by us from Clerks of Unions showing the extent to which the Midwives throughout the country had been employed during the past year upon Midwives' tickets, (Form E 3) or on the orders of the Medical Officers. The total number of maternity patients attended at their homes by the 762 Dispensary Midwives in respect of whom particulars were furnished, was 17,554, of this number 14,232 were attended on Midwives' tickets, and 3,322 on orders from the Medical Officers—an average all round for each Midwife of 23 cases, but the average, however, of some 226 Midwives was under 12.

We wish again to intimate to Midwives that under no circumstances should they accept fees, no matter how small, from poor persons entitled to free medical relief, and that they should only accept fees in non-ticket cases from persons whose circumstances admit of their paying the usual remuneration claimed by qualified midwives. We would furthermore point out to Midwives that they should insist upon tickets being procured and presented to them by all poor persons entitled to gratuitous medical relief, who may requisition their services.

The Midwives (Ireland) Act, 1918, admitted to its Roll not only the trained Midwives but also persons who claimed admission on the ground of having been in *bona fide* practice as Midwives for 12 months prior to the 6th February, 1918.

We considered it essential, however, that our previous standard of hospital training for Midwives, as laid down in the Dispensary

Rules, should as far as possible be maintained, and accordingly we issued an Order under Seal on the 19th May, 1919, which in effect debarred persons enrolled by the Central Midwives Board under the *bona fide* clause from being eligible for appointment as Midwives of Dispensary Districts.

A similar order was issued by us in regard to the post of midwife of a Workhouse.

Trained Nurses in Dispensary Districts.

A Trained Nurse and eight Assistant Nurses were appointed during the past year by the Dublin Board of Guardians, with our sanction, to visit and nurse in their own homes the sick poor of the Dispensary Districts in the City.

Drugs and Surgical Instruments and Appliances.

The usual prescribed lists of Medicines and Medical and Surgical Appliances were issued in March, 1919, with a revised price for each item based on the then current market quotations. The prices were still higher than in the previous year's lists; and contracts for the year, based on the new lists, were entered into by the Guardians. The discount obtained averaged in the case of drugs 14·17 per cent. and in the case of surgical instruments and appliances 15·59 per cent.

The drug contracts were on the whole executed satisfactorily as regards despatch and delivery of the consignments and furthermore the quality of the supplies of the contractors, except one, was of a high order. The unfavourable analytical reports were limited to two or three preparations, but the items though few, were very seriously defective. Numerous complaints of delay were made against one of the Surgical Contractors.

VACCINATIONS.

(1) *Number of Operations.*

The following table shows the number of successful vaccinations performed during the year by the Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts and Workhouses, and by Dr. Montgomery at our Vaccine Institute in Dublin.

	Primary Vaccinations	Re- Vaccinations	Total Vaccinations
BY DISPENSARY MEDICAL OFFICERS,	58,268	1,303	59,571
BY WORKHOUSE MEDICAL OFFICERS,	404	29	433
AT THE VACCINE INSTITUTE, ...	344	17	361
TOTAL, ...	59,016	1,349	60,365

In previous reports we drew attention to the marked diminution that had taken place in recent years in the total number of primary vaccinations performed annually by Poor Law Medical Officers, and also at our Vaccine Institute. This falling off has been noticeable since 1911, and it was explained that the country had enjoyed for several years past a complete immunity from Small-pox, and that during the continuance of that state of affairs parents would naturally consult their own convenience and avoid as long as possible the trouble incidental to the vaccination of their children. The majority of Board of Guardians administer the Vaccination Acts carefully and efficiently, but in perhaps a dozen Unions chiefly in Leinster, the defaulters are merely served with notices. No effective measures are resorted to when the notices are disregarded. The number of primary vaccinations last year was 59,016 as compared with 77,217 in 1910.

(2) *Vaccine Department.*

The supplies of glycerinated calf lymph have, as in previous years, been obtained by us under contract from Dr. Knox Denham of the National Vaccine Institute, Sandymount Green, Dublin, and the lymph has been distributed by Dr. Montgomery, Secretary of our Vaccine Department, amongst the Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts and Workhouses, as required from time to time for public vaccinations.

The following table shows the number of tubes distributed :—

Issued to Medical Officers of		Year ended the 31st March, 1920.		Previous Year.	
		Tubes.		Tubes.	
Workhouses ...	...	986	...	718	
Dispensary Districts ...	...	101,373	...	82,145	

Favourable reports respecting the quality of the lymph were furnished by our Bacteriologist, Professor E. J. McWeeney; by Dr. Montgomery, Secretary of our Vaccine Department; and also by Poor Law Medical Officers who had obtained supplies.

Dispensary Houses (Ireland) Act, 1879,
(42 and 43 Vic. cap. 25).

We issued certificates under Section 4 of the Act during the year in the following cases :—

Union.	Dispensary District.			Purposes for which certificates were granted.
Cellbridge ...	Lucan	...	...	Dispensary and Medical Officer's Residences.
Llanskeu ...	Derrylin	...	...	Dispensary.

As mentioned in our last Report we received at the end of April, 1919, a communication from the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant informing us that the Treasury had authorized the Board of Works to resume the issue of loans for providing Dispensaries and Medical Officers' Residences. Buildings of this class are, it is needless to repeat, required urgently in various Districts throughout the country, and we trust that Boards of Guardians will avail themselves of the loan facilities and provide suitable premises, wherever required to ensure the proper administration of medical relief to the sick poor.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The local authorities for the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are the County Councils for Counties and the Corporations for Municipal Boroughs, including the six County Boroughs. Each local authority appoints a Public Analyst, subject to our approval, and also appoints, at their discretion, Food Inspectors to take samples of food and drugs for analysis. Members of the Royal Irish Constabulary act without extra remuneration as Food Inspectors in the counties and in some of the boroughs, but in the remaining boroughs the Corporations have appointed civilians as Food Inspectors.

There has been no change in the staff of Public Analysts during the past year.

We are pleased to report that the local authorities administered the Acts on the whole satisfactorily during the past year, and appeared to realize the vital importance of the duty which devolved upon them of safeguarding as far as lay in their power the purity of the foods sold to the public. We repeat the recommendation made in our last Report that local authorities should, in view of the abnormally high prices of milk, butter, and other items of human diet, proceed even more vigorously than heretofore in the enforcement of the Acts. Legal proceedings should, in our opinion, be instituted in all reported cases of food adulteration, and local authorities should refuse to consider or accept statements in regard to extenuating circumstances. Such explanations could be tendered on oath at the Petty Sessions Courts, and would be duly considered by the Magistrates when adjudicating upon the summonses.

III.—PUBLIC HEALTH, ETC., ACTS.

We have received reports from our Medical Inspectors giving details as to the general state of the sanitation and public health of their respective districts and also full particulars respecting any serious outbreaks of infectious disease which have occurred therein.

The year's experience presented few features of special interest and there was no general recurrence of influenza. Questions of remuneration have occupied a large share of our attention, and so far as the exceptional cost of living has been concerned, we have recommended local Authorities to give their officers the advantage of the several scales of War Bonus applicable to the Civil Service. In Dublin County Borough we dealt with a general revision of the salaries of the Sanitary Staff submitted by the Corporation, and after local inquiry sanctioned a very substantial increase in the existing rates of pay.

The death-rate from all causes in the principal Irish Town Districts in 1919 was 19·2 per thousand of the estimated population, or 3·1 per thousand less than in the preceding year. The principal Epidemic Diseases were accountable for the very moderate rate of 1·2 per thousand. The highest death-rates were registered in Dublin County Borough, 22·0 per thousand, Londonderry County Borough 21·8, Galway 21·5 and Drogheda 20·1. For comparative purposes it may be mentioned that the death rates in the larger centres of England and Wales (Civil population) and of Scotland in 1919, were 13·8 and 15·7 per thousand, respectively.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

On the 31st March, 1920, the provisions of this Act had been adopted in 163 Rural and 93 Urban Districts. During the year the Act became operative in Ennistymon Rural District for the first time.

During the year there were 3,081 and 8,423 cases of infectious disease notified in Rural and Urban Districts, respectively, being an increase of 6,299 in the total number of cases notified in the preceding year. A summary of notifications is contained in the sub-joined table :—

Disease.	Rural Districts.	Urban Districts.	Total	Disease.	Rural Districts.	Urban Districts.	Total
Small-pox ..	·	1	1	Typhoid Fever	328	436	764
Cholera ..	·	·	·	Enteric Fever			
Diphtheria ..	564	1,127	1,691	Relapsing Fever		11	12
Membranous Croup.	6	25	31	Continued Fever	2	18	20
Erysipelas ..	89	484	573	Puerperal Fever	19	64	83
Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever.	1,573	5,333	6,806	Other Diseases to which the Act has been applied.	466	977	1,443
Typhus Fever ..	33	47	80				
				TOTAL ..	3,081	8,423	11,504

Small-pox.

Two cases of Small-pox came under notice, the infection in both instances having been apparently contracted outside Ireland. The first patient had been on military service in Egypt, and on discharge from the Army had returned to his home at Listowel, where he developed feverish symptoms within a few days after arrival. The case was described as one of modified small-pox. The patient is stated to have been vaccinated in infancy, and was presumably revaccinated on joining the Army, although no recent marks were observable. The other patient, resident at Clogher Head, County Louth, was a member of the crew of a ship on which Small-pox had occurred on the voyage from Alexandria, and had been reported as a contact by the Port of London authorities. He had one large primary vaccination mark, but no evidence of secondary vaccination.

Both patients were duly isolated in Hospital, and no spread of infection took place. In view of the proximity of the County Louth case, we took the precaution of advising the Sanitary Authority of Dublin to assure themselves that suitable hospital accommodation would be immediately available if occasion arose, and to warn the Medical Officers to be on the watch for cases of Small-pox. Our Medical Inspectors have been kept informed of the weekly incidence of Small-pox in England and Wales, so that they might be in a position to apprise the local Medical Officers of districts that might seem to be exposed to the risk of infection.

Typhus Fever.

The cases of Typhus Fever notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, numbered 80 as compared with 98 in the previous year. The former figure agrees closely with the results of the more comprehensive system of reports made to us by Medical Officers, and may therefore be taken as a fairly accurate index of the incidence of Typhus Fever in Ireland. Seeing that fourteen years ago an equivalent number of deaths from Typhus Fever was registered in a single year, it will be apparent that the efforts for the prevention of the disease have been attended with a large measure of success. A third of the cases belonged to the Western Inspection District, a like proportion was equally divided between the County Boroughs of Dublin, Cork, and Londonderry, and the balance represents the occurrence of the disease throughout the rest of the country. None of the outbreaks were of serious extent, and the disease was frequently noted in conjunction with domestic overcrowding.

Enteric Fever.

A further diminution in the incidence of Enteric Fever has to be recorded, and where outbreaks have occurred as the result of the usual causes, contaminated water supplies, infected milk, or

insanitary conditions, there has been little difficulty in keeping them within moderate limits. Dundalk Urban District was visited by a local epidemic which in the course of a couple of months produced over forty cases. On investigation our expert officers arrived at the conclusion that the dissemination of the infection was caused by the washing of milk vessels in water from a polluted well in a dairyman's yard. An outbreak of some interest occurred in one of the larger Sanatoria, a total of 23 cases among patients and staff being involved. The character of the infection was not immediately recognised, and was ultimately decided by bacteriological means. Warning was given in all cases of tuberculous patients discharged from the Institution within the period covered by the outbreak, but no attacks of Enteric Fever were ascertained; admissions were suspended for an interval of two months. In tracing the probable source of infection, no suspicion was found to attach to the water or milk supplies, or to the presence of a carrier. The hypothesis ultimately accepted was that the disease was introduced by a patient in whom the specific symptoms were masked by the febrile conditions ordinarily associated with Tuberculosis, and that the infection passed through another patient before becoming more widely disseminated. It is noteworthy that ex-service men, who had undergone anti-typhoid inoculation in the Army, formed a considerable proportion of the inmates of the Institution, and that all these escaped infection.

Cases of Fever Treated in Dispensary Districts.

The following table shows the number of cases of Fever (other than Scarlet Fever) reported to us by Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts as having been attended by them in each of the last nine years:—

Year.	Number of cases.	Decrease compared with last preceding year.	Increase compared with last preceding year.
1912	1,064	—	26
1913	786	279	—
1914	932	—	147
1915	890	42	—
1916	714	176	—
1917	854	—	140
1918	931	—	77
1919	643	288	—
1920	400	243	—

On examination of these figures it will be seen that the number of fever cases in Ireland reported by Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts during the past year shows a decrease of 243 on the preceding year. There has been a remarkable

diminution of fever since 1878, the year in which the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 41 and 42 Vic., cap. 52, became law, when nearly 11,000 cases were reported.

Scarlatina.

Scarlatina was more widely distributed than for several years past, and was particularly prevalent in Belfast County Borough, where 3,446 cases were notified, and in the surrounding districts. The disease was described as of a mild type and the mortality was low.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever (1759) treated by Medical Officers of Dispensary Districts in the year ended the 31st March, 1920, was 1181 more than the number so treated in the previous year.

Influenza.

There was no general recurrence of Influenza, but in some of the Northern districts the disease made its appearance in the course of the winter to a limited extent.

We arranged for a gratuitous supply of Influenza Vaccine composed of B. Influenzæ (Pfeiffer) Pneumococcus and Streptococcus to medical practitioners and Dispensary Medical Officers who might wish to use it. In distributing the vaccine, instructions for use, explaining the technical composition of the preparation, the dosage and the methods of administration recommended were transmitted, and emphasis was laid on the importance of keeping careful records with a view to arriving at a conclusion as to the efficacy of this preventive inoculation as a means of forestalling or modifying an attack of Influenza. The facilities were availed of by over one hundred practitioners, but the fortunately restricted incidence of the disease did not admit of general deductions as to the preventive value of the preparation. In a few districts, where the vaccine was used on a considerable scale and under apparently testing conditions, medical practitioners expressed favourable opinions.

Dysentery.

As might be expected, cases of Dysentery among ex-soldiers who had served in Eastern countries came under notice, the information being often received by means of reports transmitted by the Ministry of Health, Whitehall, which were in turn communicated to the local Medical Officers with suitable instructions as to precautionary measures. An epidemic outbreak of the disease occurred among the civilian population in Dublin County Borough and Pembroke Urban District in the Autumn of last year. On investigation the causative organism was found to be the *Bacillus Dysenterizæ* of Shiga. The disease first made its appearance in the South City No. 4 Dispensary District, and between the 1st September and 31st December, 1919, 186 cases

were notified. The distribution of the cases in the various City Dispensary Districts was as follows :—South City No. 4 137 cases, North City No. 3, 13 cases, North City No. 1 West, 7 cases, Coolock and Drumcondra, 5 cases, South City No. 1, 5 cases, South City No. 3, 4 cases, South City No. 2, 1 case, North City No. 1 East, 1 case. There were 19 deaths, representing a death-rate of 10·3 per cent. ; the mortality was highest (43 per cent.) among persons over 45 years of age. Every precaution was taken to limit the spread of the disease, the powers conferred by the Public Health (Ireland) (Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, etc.,) Regulations, 1919, were extensively availed of, and Medical Practitioners were reminded of the duty of notification under those Regulations, and were informed of the facilities for bacteriological examination at their disposal. The services of our Bacteriologist were placed at the disposal of the Public Health Authorities, and a supply of anti-dysenteric serum was made available for any practitioner requiring it.

Precautions against Rabies.

Consequent on the appearance of Rabies among dogs and other animals in England and Wales, we deemed it advisable to organise a system of protection in the event of the introduction of the disease into this country.

The procedure outlined comprised.—

- (a) Notification, to be made to the police in case of persons bitten by stray dogs or by dogs exhibiting unusual behaviour ;
to be made by the police to the local Medical Officer of Health in case of a person bitten by a dog suspected of being rabid ;
to be made, under like circumstances, by the Medical Officer of Health to us.
- (b) Notification of diagnosis. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction undertook to advise us where in the opinion of their Veterinary Officers a dog was regarded as rabid, and this information would at once be transmitted to the local Medical Officer. If the diagnosis were doubtful, but the symptoms were sufficiently suspicious to justify anti-rabic treatment, the Medical Officer would also be notified.
- (c) Vaccine Treatment—A supply of anti-rabic vaccine was obtained by us for issue, as circumstances might require, to any medical practitioner in charge of a patient bitten by an animal suffering from Rabies, or to Medical Officers of Health.

The foregoing arrangements were communicated by Circular^r to all Sanitary Authorities and Medical Officers of Health, together with detailed instructions as to the use of the Vaccine.

Some cases of dog bite were reported and investigated, but no instance of rabies came under notice.

Notification of Tuberculosis.

The additional districts in which Part I of the Tuberculosis Prevention (Ireland) Act, 1908, has been adopted, comprise the Rural Districts of Aghalee, Ballymoney, Glenties, Hillsborough, Kilmallock, Larne, Lisburn, Loughrea, and Tanderagee, and the Urban Districts of Ballyclare, Dromore, and Lisburn, and the entire list embraces three County Boroughs, 36 other Urban Districts and 62 Rural Districts.

The extended scope of notification, which was explained in our last Report, has been operative throughout the year, but we fear that the notified cases in many rural districts fall short of the actual facts. The system is still regarded with prejudice which is calculated to withhold from the public and from patients the benefits of the organised arrangements for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis.

We append a summary of notifications received in the County Borough of Dublin, classified according to age and sex.

Dublin County Borough.

Notifications of Tuberculosis for Year ended 31st March, 1920.

Age Periods.				Males.	Females	Total.
Under 5 years	...	...		5	6	11
5 years and under 10	...	...		23	24	47
10 " " " 15	...	...		42	61	103
15 " " " 25	...	...		84	115	199
25 " " " 35	...	...		95	84	179
35 " " " 45	...	...		96	48	144
45 years and upwards	...	...		60	29	89
Total	...	...		405	367	772

The total number of notifications recorded for the previous year in Dublin County Borough was 746.

*Treatment of Tuberculosis.**1. Appointment of Tuberculosis Officers.*

Additional appointments of Assistant Tuberculosis Officers have been made in Belfast County Borough and in County Down.

2. Approval of Institutions.

Under the provisions of Section 16 (1) (a) of the National Insurance Act, 1911, our approval is required to sanatoria and other institutions with which the Insurance Committees make arrangements for the reception of insured persons suffering from tuberculosis.

In expressing approval of institutions, we have stipulated that proper records of cases shall be kept, that the institutions shall be open to our inspection at any time, and that we reserve the right to withdraw our approval at any time, should circumstances arise which would warrant such a course.

Intimation of each approval is furnished to the Insurance Commissioners.

The following additions have been made to the list of approved institutions :—

King's County Tuberculosis Institution, Tuillamore.—Cases of tuberculosis requiring instruction, observation, or tuberculin injection.

Mater Infirmorum Hospital, Belfast.—Surgical cases of Tuberculosis.

Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.—Surgical cases of Tuberculosis.

The approved Sanatoria contain accommodation for 1,288 patients. There are 73 other institutions approved for the treatment of Tuberculosis, with a total complement of 4,984 beds. This accommodation is not of course reserved exclusively for tuberculous patients, but is available for meeting the various requirements of the community for intern treatment generally.

3. Approval of Domiciliary Treatment.

Under Section 16 (1) (b) of the National Insurance Act, 1911, our approval is required to the manner in which the treatment of tuberculous insured persons (otherwise than in Sanatoria and other institutions) is undertaken by persons and local authorities. Under the arrangements explained in previous reports, we deal with individual cases according to their merits and circumstances in those Counties in which no Tuberculosis Officer has been appointed, and we have accordingly approved the manner of treatment proposed to be undertaken in connection with cases submitted by the Insurance Committees of Cork, Londonderry,

Meath, Roscommon and Wicklow Counties, and Limerick County Borough. Where Tuberculosis Officers have taken up duty it devolves on them, under the general conditions of approval drawn up by us, to supervise the suitability of the home surroundings in which treatment is undertaken as well as the course of treatment carried out by a medical practitioner.

4. Distribution of the Sanatorium Grant.

No disbursements from this fund were made during the year.

Consequent on the report of the Inter-Departmental Committee appointed to investigate the question of the provision of residential accommodation for ex-service patients affected with Tuberculosis, the Treasury agreed to a resumption of issues from the Sanatorium Grant, which had for some time past been in abeyance on account of financial pressure connected with the War. The Treasury concession was subject to the conditions (1) that the contributions from the Capital Grant shall not exceed £180 per bed provided, (2) that where a Capital Grant is sought in respect of expenditure not covered by the County population share of the original Sanatorium Grant, a contribution of two-fifths of the cost shall be forthcoming from local sources, (3) that the proposals of the Council with the necessary plans and particulars shall be submitted at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than the 30th June, 1920, and (4) that the works shall be completed expeditiously and in no case later than two-and-a-half years from the date of our approval, unless on the grounds of special circumstances beyond the control of the Council, we with the concurrence of the Treasury allow an extension of time.

In communicating this decision to County and County Borough Councils we pointed out that it was clear from the reports of Tuberculosis Officers as well as from other sources of information that the facilities for the institutional treatment of advanced cases in Ireland call for expansion on a large scale, and we accordingly recommended that in considering proposals for extended accommodation particular attention should be given to the needs of advanced cases.

The matter has been taken up in a number of instances, but the circumstance of the pending local elections has operated as a factor of delay.

5. Exchequer Grant in Aid of the Treatment of Tuberculosis.

A Grant in aid of the net cost of the treatment of Tuberculosis has been included by Parliament in the Civil Service Estimates, and is applicable to:—

- (1) Half the net expenditure, after deducting receipts from Insurance Committees or other sources, incurred by a County or County Borough Council, under a scheme of treatment approved by us, and

- (2) Half the excess expenditure of an Insurance Committee, over and above the amount of the Committee's fund available for Sanatorium Benefit, incurred in affording Sanatorium Benefit to insured persons and their dependants, and sanctioned by the County or County Borough Council and the Treasury.

The distribution of the Grant has been entrusted to us on behalf of the Treasury, and is subject to the conditions detailed in our Circular Letter of the 5th December, 1913.

The total recoupments made during the year to the 31st March, 1920, on account of approved schemes amounted to £53,131 14s. 2d., and particulars of the disbursements are shown below :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Antrim	665	0	0	Louth	247	0	0
Armagh	881	3	3	Mayo	1,595	9	0
Carlow	359	4	2	Meath	199	15	8
Cavan	789	14	9	Monaghan	967	17	3
Clare	1,422	11	0	Queen's County	844	6	5
Donegal	474	3	1	Sligo	840	1	1
Down	1,068	7	8	Tipperary (N.R.)	807	16	1
Dublin	2,002	0	0	Tipperary (S.R.)	612	3	2
Fermanagh	932	16	6	Tyrone	1,935	13	0
Galway	893	9	4	Waterford	372	19	10
Kerry	1,742	6	7	Westmeath	610	10	5
Kildare	493	16	3	Wexford	690	8	4
Kilkenny	613	1	11	Belfast County			
King's County	841	15	7	Borough	14,987	5	4
Leitrim	514	11	1	Dublin	13,672	5	6
Limerick	451	17	10	Waterford	602	4	1

6. Progress of County Schemes.

The administration of County schemes has proceeded with few new developments. The Corporation of Belfast have acquired a property with a view to providing treatment of Surgical and other Tuberculosis among children. The Down County Council submitted a proposal for purchasing premises which had been used as a War Hospital for conversion into a County Sanatorium. The scheme involved a considerable loan operation and aroused much local opposition, necessitating an Inquiry which was held after the close of the year under review. A general agreement for the treatment of insured and exempt persons recommended for Sanatorium Benefit was concluded between the Mayo County Council and the County Insurance Committee. Renewals of similar agreements, which were originally made for short terms, have taken place in the Counties of Fermanagh, Leitrim, Louth, Sligo, and Waterford. Such agreements are operative in 24 Counties and in 3 County Boroughs and have secured the use of 287 institutional beds for insured and exempt patients.

The returns furnished by the Tuberculosis Officers go to show that over 18,000 cases have received treatment in the course of the year under approved schemes. A fourth of the cases were those of children under fifteen years of age and among the older patients the two sexes were dealt with in equal proportion. These particulars warrant the conclusion that the Tuberculosis Officers have done useful work in getting in touch with patients, and have made distinct progress in combating Tuberculosis among the youthful section of the population. The deaths from the disease recorded in the administrative areas in which approved schemes are in operation amounted to between 6,000 and 7,000, and accordingly a fairly substantial ratio between treatment and mortality has been achieved. It is gratifying to note that the provisional statistics of the Registrar General for 1919 indicate that the mortality rate for Tuberculosis throughout the country will prove to be under 2 per thousand, a result not previously attained.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts of 1878 and 1886, and the Order thereunder, Local Authorities—i.e., the District Councils of Urban and Rural Districts are empowered to make Regulations for any or all of the following purposes :—

- (a) For the registration of all persons carrying on the trade of cowkeepers, dairymen, or purveyors of milk ;
- (b) For the inspection of cattle in dairies, and for prescribing and regulating the lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage and water supply of dairies and cowsheds in the occupation of persons following the trade of cowkeepers and dairymen ;
- (c) For securing the cleanliness of milkstores, of milkshops, and of milk vessels used for containing milk for sale by such persons ;
- (d) For prescribing precautions to be taken for protecting milk against infection or contamination.

Our general regulations for the control of the milk supply are contained in the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (Ireland) Order of 1908, which came into operation on the 1st May, 1908. We have strongly recommended District Councils, where the dairying industry is extensively carried on, to appoint Veterinary Surgeons as Chief Inspectors to superintend the work of the ordinary Inspector. The number of districts in which Veterinary Surgeons have, up to the present, been employed for the administration of the Order is 197, while in 101 districts other inspectors have been appointed. It will thus be seen that provision for the control of the sources of the public milk supply has been made in 298 out of a total of 310 sanitary districts.

From a return which we recently obtained from the clerks of local authorities, it appears that 53,537 persons are now registered as carrying on the trade of cowkeeper, dairyman, or

purveyor of milk. No doubt this number is capable of being increased, but the supervision over dairy premises, even as at present exercised, cannot fail to be attended with beneficial results to public health. The information which has reached us goes to show that the Order is steadily effecting an improvement in the conditions under which the milk supply is produced.

Alleged Default of Sanitary Authorities.

Section 15 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1896, provides that, where complaint is made to us that a Sanitary Authority has made default in providing their district with a proper supply of water, or with sufficient sewers, or in enforcing any provisions of the Public Health Acts which it is their duty to enforce, we may, if satisfied after due inquiry of the alleged default, make an Order limiting a time for the performance by the Sanitary Authority of their duty in the matter of the complaint. Such Order may be enforced by writ of *mandamus*, or we may appoint a person to perform such duty at the expense of the defaulting authority.

No Default Orders were made during the year under review.

Investment of Rural Sanitary Authorities with Powers of Urban Authorities under the Public Health Acts.

Under Section 1 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1896, we are enabled, on the application of the Sanitary Authority of any rural district, or of persons rated to the extent of at least one-tenth of the net rateable value of such district, or of any contributory place therein, to declare any provision of the Public Health (Ireland) Acts in force in urban districts to be in force in such rural district or contributory place, and to invest the Rural Authority concerned with all the powers, rights, duties, capacities, liabilities and obligations of an Urban Authority under those Acts.

Particulars of the Orders made by us during the year in pursuance of this enactment are given below :—

Rural District and Place.	Date of Order.	Section of Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, declared to be in force.
Castlerea, the entire Rural District.	10th February, 1920.	Section 80.
Downpatrick, Townlands of Ballinahinch and Ballymaglave North.	17th November, 1919.	Section 80.
Skibbereen, District Electoral Divisions of Aghadown South, Cape Clear, Castlehaven South, and Tullagh.	16th December, 1919.	Section 49.
Waterford No. 1, Townlands of Ballycarnane, Crobally Upper, Tramore East and Tramore West.	17th November, 1919.	Sections 49 and 52.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, we are empowered, upon the application of a local authority, to declare the provisions of Part II., III., IV., V., VI. and X., or any Section contained therein, to be in force in the district of such authority, or in the case of a rural district, in any contributory place. Applications have been received by us from some local authorities under this Act, and Orders have been made in the following cases :—

District.	Date of Order.	Parts or Sections applied.
Ardee No. 1 Rural District.	27th August, 1919.	Section 92 in Part X.
Bannis Rural District ...	1st April, 1919, ...	Section 60 in Part IV.
Newry Urban District,	15th September, 1919,	Section 21 in Part II.
Sligo Urban District, ...	28th October, 1919,	Part IV.

On the application of the Corporation of Dublin we authorised by Order dated 30th March, 1920, steps to be taken under Section 31 of the Act for the proper fencing of a piece of land in Dublin County Borough.

*Maternity and Child Welfare.**Notification of Births Acts of 1907 and 1915.*

The provisions of the Act of 1907 have now been adopted with our consent by the ten Rural District Councils of Antrim, Balrothery, Belfast, Castlereagh, North Dublin, Mullingar, Rathdown No. 1, Rathdown No. 2, Rathkeale and Waterford No. 1. Compulsory notification of birth to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours of its occurrence is accordingly in force in these districts as well as in all Urban Districts.

Considerable progress has been made with the initiation of new health visiting schemes during the year and headway has also been made in the direction of the provision of institutional accommodation for both mothers and young children. During the year a travelling Health Exhibition organised by the Women's National Health Association visited a number of localities and in several cases had the result of arousing public interest in the benefits to be secured from properly conducted arrangements for Maternity and Child Welfare. The increased activities shown lead the Board to hope that during the current year a marked improvement in the much needed development of the service will be recorded.

The disbursements from the Exchequer Grant in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1919, amounted in all to

£8,529 10s. 5d., of which £1,491 5s. 9d. was allocated to seven Institutions, including a newly established Maternity Hostel, an Infant Hospital, a Convalescent Home for the reception of young children of the poor, and three Institutions and one Agency making provision for the care and maintenance of children under five years of age of widowed, deserted or unmarried mothers. The balance, exclusive of some small contributions in aid of the local cost of the Travelling Exhibition referred to in certain districts wherein no schemes were carried out, was allocated among 110 sanitary districts—54 Urban and 56 Rural—in which 103 approved schemes were conducted by 33 Urban District Councils, 11 Rural District Councils and 59 Voluntary Agencies.

At the instance of the Corporation of Belfast and consequent on allegations made in the course of an Inquest, we arranged for an Inquiry into the management of a Home for infants towards which the Corporation contributed from their funds for Maternity and Child Welfare. The evidence received was wholly favourable to the Institution and we were able to advise the Corporation that their contribution might be continued. Another Inquiry, held on the representation of the Belfast Corporation, was concerned with a series of 21 cases of Puerperal Fever (with fifteen deaths) which arose in the course of the two months following Christmas 1919. For the most part there was no evidence of common origin, the disease being widely distributed and occurring among Hospital patients as well as among those treated in the ordinary course of Maternity practice. In a small proportion of the cases there was evidence of contact infection. As a result of the Inquiry detailed recommendations were furnished to the Corporation with a view of improving the supervision over midwifery services.

Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children.

The disbursements from the Exchequer Grant in aid of this service for the year ended the 31st March last amounted to £704 8s. 3d., allocated among 23 approved schemes carried out on the voluntary lines referred to in our last annual Report. The legislation then foreshadowed has now become law, the Public Health (Medical Treatment of Children) (Ireland) Act, 1919, imposing on County and County Borough Councils, or by agreement subject to our consent, on the Councils of Urban Districts having populations of not less than 8,000, the duty of making arrangements for the medical inspection of school children and for attending to their health and physical welfare, in accordance with Regulations to be made by us with the approval of the Treasury and the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

In framing the Regulations we considered it desirable to secure the advice and assistance of the Irish Public Health Council, and, pending their completion, we circularised the County and

County Borough Councils in December, 1919, bringing to their notice the broad outlines of the service and suggesting the provision of funds in their estimates with the object of placing themselves in a position to inaugurate schemes during the forthcoming year. Draft Regulations have been prepared and have received the approval of the Treasury and of the Commissioners of National Education.

Venereal Diseases.

The Venereal Diseases Schemes approved at the commencement of the year would serve a population of over 1½ millions and the additional schemes approved during the year would serve a further ¾ million. The approved facilities at the close of the year extended, therefore, to over 2 millions or somewhat less than one-half the population of the country. These facilities comprise special hospital treatment at recognised Treatment Centres, University and Hospital Laboratory facilities for examination of pathological specimens and purposes of diagnosis, supply of drugs to Medical Practitioners, supply of skilled assistance, instruction and miscellaneous provision.

The specialized system for treatment and diagnosis operative at the end of the year embraced the provision of the Medical Research Committee and of our expert department, so far as both might be required, together with special provision at University and large Hospital Laboratories and at eighteen Treatment Centres. The system, as a whole, did not become operative until towards the end of the year, but figures were obtained showing the partial work done during the year 1919. These indicated that in the limited working of that period the Laboratories referred to had dealt with 3,736 pathological examinations, and the Treatment Centres with 12,785 out-patient attendances and 15,791 in-patient days.

The figures show an undesirable prevalence which is manifested chiefly, but by no means confined to, the large centres of population. The areas served are broadly speaking along the east coast and some distance inland, but in view of the dangers it is obviously desirable to extend the system elsewhere particularly along lines of traffic and in large centres of population, especially seaports. The Board have exerted their efforts accordingly, but have not met with the desired success. This is partly due to the reluctance of County Infirmary Authorities to afford the required facilities, though it would appear that County Infirmaries should normally develop to provide special treatment for this and other particular diseases according to the requirements of their areas. However, it is hoped that the experience of the large populations now served will awaken the necessary interest and action in remaining areas and in time lead to the completion of a thorough preventive and curative system.

The Board's Pathologist and expert Medical Adviser have maintained contact with the Laboratories and Treatment Centres established and have reported favourably at all times as to the efficiency of these Agencies for their specific purposes. The Medical Adviser draws special attention to the difficulty of securing the attendance of patients for the requisite period after-external manifestations of disease have disappeared. It would appear desirable that local effort might be exerted further so as to bring all infected persons into the curative system as far as possible and to retain them therein until all traces of danger are removed.

We continued during the year the arrangements with the Ministry of Pensions whereby provision is made for the cases of men discharged from the Forces and suffering from Venereal Disease. Under this arrangement we supplied the pathological reports, drugs, etc., as required in such cases.

Welfare of the Blind.

In pursuance of the procedure mentioned in our previous Report, we made further proposals, after consultation with our Advisory Committee, for grants for the Blind pending legislation. The Treasury agreed to these proposals and decided to ask Parliament to vote a sum of £12,000 for expenditure in aid of the Blind during the last nine months of the year. Parliamentary provision was accordingly made and the Board paid instalments of the grants thereunder to approved Agencies for the Blind towards the close of the year. Under the Regulations relating to this aid, grants will be payable to approved Agencies in respect of the following services, viz.: (1) Workshops for the Blind, (2) Assistance to Home Workers, (3) Homes, Hostels and School Residences for the Blind, (4) Home-teaching, (5) Book-production, (6) Agencies for the Blind and (7) Miscellaneous.

In regard to legislation to extend the above financial provision and to give further statutory powers to deal with the problem, we made further representations during the year. The matter has engaged the attention of the Government and towards the close of the year their proposals were outlined in Parliament in regard to the questions of the incapable Blind, Workshops, industrial training and other matters. The Government further dealt with the special problem of the education of the Irish Blind in the Education (Ireland) Bill.

IV. HOUSING.

Unlike England and Scotland, Ireland has had, for nearly 40 years, two distinct series of laws dealing respectively with Housing in urban areas and in rural areas, viz., the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, from 1883 onwards, and the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, from 1890 onwards. The rural housing problem has reached an advanced stage of solution, as will be seen from

the particulars given below of loans advanced and cottages built hitherto ; but operations under the Housing Acts in towns had not taken place on a large scale prior to 1914, and the end of the War found Municipal Authorities confronted with a serious situation.

The Government having intimated their intention to facilitate both urban and rural housing, we appointed a Housing Committee at the end of April and organised a Housing Department with a view to securing the utmost efficiency and expedition in dealing with the housing problem in its manifold aspects. The Committee consisted of Mr. P. C. Cowan, D.Sc., M.Inst. C.E., our chief Engineering Inspector, Mr. Hugh A. Law, B.L., Mr. Louis E. H. Deane, F.R.I.A.I., our senior Architect, and Mr. C. H. O'Connor, one of our Inspectors ; and its main functions have been to give information, guidance and assistance to Local Authorities, to deal with their proposals up to the stage when we would be required to exercise our statutory powers, and to advise us in all matters connected with housing policy and administration.

(A) Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts.

General Survey.

Put briefly, the situation which faced us at the commencement of the year was as follows :—Up to the 31st March, 1918, only 9,416 houses (including two lodging houses) had been built in Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, 1890 to 1908, the average cost per house being £192 2s. 6d. The sums required to be raised annually in repayment of loans amounted to £90,352 1s. 9d., towards which total, so far as it related to houses provided since 1908, the income of the Irish Housing Fund, amounting to nearly £6,400, was payable. An accurate idea of the number of new houses required for the working classes in 1919 could not be formed in the absence of careful surveys of the housing situation in all the municipal areas ; but from Dr. Cowan's special report in 1917 on Dublin housing, prepared for the Chief Secretary, it would appear that 16,500 new houses were then required in Dublin alone ; whilst in 1918 the Housing Committee of the Irish Convention reported that 67,500 houses were required for the urban areas in the country as a whole. Taking the inclusive cost of a house at the very moderate figure of £600 on the average, an expenditure of £35,000,000 to £40,000,000 might, therefore, have to be undertaken, as compared with £2,012,981 3s. 4d., the total cost of housing schemes up to the 31st March, 1918. Moreover, the difficulties which would have attended the carrying out of a programme of such magnitude in normal times were seriously enhanced by the high and increasing cost of materials and labour.

It had been apparent for some time that voluntary and unstimulated action on the part of the Local Authorities and private

enterprise would be quite insufficient to cope with such a situation. Fresh legislation and special financial assistance were clearly requisite; and on the 31st March, 1919, we outlined to Municipal Authorities the scheme of State Aid and the other proposals which it was intended to embody in legislation at an early date, and urged them to initiate their housing schemes forthwith. Early in the financial year a special Housing Committee was formed by us, as noted above, and on the 5th May we issued a Memorandum giving full information for the guidance of Local Authorities with respect to the selection of sites and the accommodation to be provided in houses erected under State-aided housing schemes.

Many Authorities acted promptly, and when the Housing (Ireland) Act was passed in the middle of August, 52 Local Authorities, or nearly one-half of the possible number of 127, had intimated their intention of making schemes. That Act marks the attainment of a definite stage in Housing legislation. Formerly a Municipal Authority had options as to whether it would adopt Part III. of the Act of 1890, and as to the number of houses it would provide thereunder; but now it is under a statutory obligation to provide an adequate number of working-class houses to meet the needs of its area. Moreover, the principle of giving a State grant or subsidy to stimulate building, first put into effect in Ireland under the Clancy Act of 1908, was applied on a bold scale to meet the emergency.

We issued a Circular and Memorandum at once to Local Authorities, explaining the Act in detail and urging them to ascertain the needs of their districts with respect to housing accommodation for the working classes and to proceed forthwith to formulate the first instalments of comprehensive housing schemes. As soon as possible we gave instructions to the Authorities to make Surveys of their districts, as required by the Statute, in order to obtain detailed information on the main phases of the housing conditions and needs thereof. These Surveys will generally form the basis for all future operations under the Acts.

We also gave wide publicity to the financial assistance offered to Public Utility Societies and Housing Trusts under the Act and dealt with considerable correspondence; but the constant increase in the cost of materials and labour combined with the novelty of such bodies in this country to prevent anything substantial being achieved. The increase in the financial assistance effected in December by the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, also produced no marked effect.

The provision made in the latter Act for a system of grants to private builders secured visible results more speedily than any other enactment during the year. It aimed at stimulating

private builders to provide houses with similar accommodation to those erected under the subsidised schemes of Local Authorities, by the offer of grants of £130 to £160 per house, amounts which were increased after the close of the year by £100 each. Some hundreds of houses are being erected under this scheme.

Through our Housing Committee and a Staff of Inspectors, etc., we have spared no effort to keep in sympathetic touch with Local Authorities during the year, and by means of conferences and interviews, either in Dublin or locally, have done everything possible to remove difficulties and misconceptions and to help forward the proposals of Local Authorities, Public Utility Societies and private builders. Almost from the first, however, there was considerable doubt in the mind of some Authorities respecting the adequacy of the Exchequer Subsidy; and this doubt spread and was deepened into a conviction as the cost of labour and building materials rose again and again during the year. The Association of Municipal Authorities brought the matter under the notice of our President; and it is understood that the question of improving the terms of financial assistance to Local Authorities is under consideration by the Government. In the meantime, dissatisfaction with the terms had a marked effect upon the progress of schemes before the end of the year; whilst a further hindrance to the speedy amelioration of the housing conditions of the people has since arisen in the shape of action on political grounds.

There were 127 Local Authorities (of County Boroughs, Boroughs, other Urban Districts and Towns with Town Commissioners) which could under the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, frame schemes to provide houses under Part III. of the Act of 1890; and of these Authorities 109 had given us definite information by the 31st March last as to the houses required or proposed to be provided in their several districts. The total number of houses proposed for early erection or already authorised was 41,995. In 85 cases, particulars of 745 selected sites, comprising 4,788 acres, had been furnished to us; and in 74 of these districts the sites had been inspected and 4,919a. 2r. 23p. had been either approved by the Housing Committee or recommended by them as suitable for adoption by the Local Authorities concerned.

Five Public Utility Societies were in process of formation with a view to the provision of 120 houses; and the sites proposed to be acquired by three of them, comprising 34 acres 19 perches, had been inspected and approved before the end of the year.

The number of houses completed during the year under the Housing Acts was 25 and the number in course of construction on the 31st March was 239.

Legislation.

Three important measures were passed by Parliament during the year—The Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, The Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act, 1919, and The Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919. Towards administering the first and third of these our main housing activities have been directed during the year.

Since 1883 the rural housing problem in Ireland has been dealt with under a unique code, the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883, *et seq.*; and since the English Act of 1903 the code under which urban housing has been dealt with in this country has diverged more and more from the English Housing Acts. The important Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act of 1909 did not apply to Ireland; and on the other hand the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908,—the "Clancy Act,"—applied to urban schemes in this country the simplified procedure of the Labourers Acts for obtaining Provisional Orders, facilitated borrowing for housing purposes, and provided in the Irish Housing Fund* for some small annual financial assistance to those Local Authorities which might thereafter build houses.

The Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, brought the Urban Housing Acts for Great Britain and Ireland into closer similarity again, for not only were the provisions of the English, Irish and Scottish Acts of last year largely the same—though the terms of financial assistance arranged in pursuance of the Acts differed—but the Irish Act enabled the Lord Lieutenant by Order in Council to apply to Ireland the main Town Planning enactments of the British Acts.

The Act received the Royal Assent on the 15th August, and on the 20th idem we issued the following memorandum to all Municipal Authorities, to explain the significance and bearing of their new powers and duties and to notify the terms of financial assistance as arranged during the passage of the measure through Parliament. At the same time we intimated our trust that full advantage would be taken of the present opportunity to effect great and far-reaching improvement of the housing conditions of the working classes and our reliance upon the Local Authorities to act with promptitude and vigour for the present generation of citizens and with vision for future generations. Instructions were also given to the Authorities respecting the immediate practical steps to be taken to frame housing schemes.

* See pages lxxxii to lxxxiv.

Urban District Councils
Town Commissioners.

MEMORANDUM ON THE HOUSING (IRELAND) ACT, 1919.

This Act consists of two Parts and three Schedules. Part I. and the Schedules amend and extend the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, 1890 to 1908; and Part II. amends the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899.

PART I.

This Part of the Act deals with (1) the housing schemes of Local Authorities, (2) the financial aid to Local Authorities, (3) provisions as to acquiring and dealing with lands, (4) the provision of houses by Public Utility Societies and Housing Trusts, (5) Byelaws, and (6) Miscellaneous Provisions.

Housing Schemes.—The fundamental need of the housing situation is the provision of houses as speedily as possible; and to meet this need action must be taken under Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, which relates to the building of houses, rather than under Parts I. and II. of that Act, which relate mainly to the improvement of unhealthy areas, large or small. Hitherto the adoption and putting into operation of Part III. of the Act of 1890 has been optional for a Local Authority. But under Section 1 of the present Act, Part III. takes effect without any preliminary procedure. It is now the duty of every urban district council and body of town commissioners to consider the needs of their district or town with respect to the provision of houses for the working classes, and, within three months from the 15th August, 1919, and thereafter as often as occasion arises, to prepare and submit to the Local Government Board a scheme for providing house accommodation. Each such scheme must contain the information and provisions indicated in the Section and will require confirmation by the Board,* with or without modification, before becoming operative. In certain circumstances, schemes may be made jointly by Local Authorities.

Section 2 of the Act requires the carrying out of each scheme within a limited time.

Section 3 confers upon the Board full power to prepare and execute a scheme at the expense of any Local Authority which fails to fulfil its obligations of making and carrying out a necessary scheme under Part III. of the Act of 1890; and

Section 4 confers similar powers in a case of default under Part I. or Part II. of that Act.

* Under the provisions of Section 6 of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1906, as adapted for the purposes of Section 6 of the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908, all the Board's powers relating to the making of Provisional Orders confirming Schemes may be conferred upon the Inspector appointed to hold the inquiry into a Scheme.

Financial Provisions.—Section 5 empowers the Board, subject to conditions to be prescribed by regulations, to recoup losses incurred by a Local Authority in carrying out either a housing scheme under Part III. or a re-housing scheme under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890. To qualify for the Exchequer subsidy thus provided, a scheme must be carried out within a period to be fixed by the Board with the approval of the Treasury.

The regulations have not yet been made definitive, but a draft of them will shortly be sent to each Local Authority concerned. It is intended that approved schemes shall rank for participation in the subsidy if they are completed within three years from the passing of the Act or within such further period as the Board may allow. The subsidy will be annual and will be calculated at the rate of 25/-, or in exceptional cases 27/6, to every 20/- of rent actually collected; but the amount of such subsidy will in no case exceed the amount of loss certified by the Local Government auditor to have been incurred. A scheme which is aided under this Act will not participate in the distribution of the Irish Housing Fund provided under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908.

The Section makes provision for housing loans and is to be deemed as having had effect as from the 1st April last.

Provisions as to the Acquisition of Land, etc.—Section 6 makes provisions calculated to reduce the compensation payable in respect of insanitary areas acquired compulsorily under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890, and provides that Sections 21 and 41 of that Act shall cease to apply to such lands so far as they are incompatible with the new enactment.

Section 7 empowers a Local Authority, at any time after publication of the notice of the appointment of an arbitrator, to take possession of authorised lands, on the conditions that fourteen days' notice is given to the owner and occupier and that due compensation is paid.

Section 8 enlarges the powers of a Local Authority to acquire land for the purposes of Part III. of the Act of 1890. It empowers an Authority (a) to acquire houses on proposed sites, (b) to acquire houses capable of being made suitable for accommodating members of the working classes; and (c) to repair and improve such houses. The Section also provides that land may be acquired for the purposes of (1) its lease or sale for the erection of houses for the working classes by persons other than the Local Authority, and (2) the lease or sale of any part of it for a use pertaining to its development as a building estate, including the provision of houses, gardens and buildings for, or for the convenience of, members of the working classes and other persons. A Local Authority is further enabled to contract for the purchase by or lease to them of suitable houses, whether already built or intended to be built.

Section 9 prohibits a Local Authority from including in a petition for compulsory powers to acquire lands any portion of a home-farm, park, garden, pleasure-ground or other land required for the amenity or convenience of a dwelling-house, if suitable sites can be obtained on other land. This provision is a modified form of a restriction contained in Section 45 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

Section 10 empowers an Authority, who have decided to make a scheme in respect of an area under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890, to acquire by agreement, before formulating the scheme, any lands within the area.

Section 11 greatly enlarges the powers of a Local Authority with respect to the disposal or use of land acquired or appropriated under Part III. of the Act last-mentioned. It authorises the laying out of open spaces and, with the consent of the Board, the lease or sale of land to persons prepared to develop it on the most modern lines and to build working-class houses thereon, as well as the lease or sale of any houses acquired or erected by the Local Authority.

Section 12 applies to operations under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts a very useful provision of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, which enables an amount of compensation for land not exceeding £100 to be paid into the County Court instead of the High Court.

Section 13 ensures that a tenant of a house provided under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts shall not by reason of such occupation be disqualified for membership of a Local Authority.

Provision of Houses by Public Utility Societies and Housing Trusts.—The enactments in this part of the statute do not relate primarily to Local Authorities, but nevertheless assign to them fresh functions and powers, a number of which were brought under their notice in the enclosure to the Board's Circular of the 14th June last, No. 28729/1919/Miscellaneous.

Section 14 empowers a Local Authority to promote and assist any Public Utility Society which is aiming at the provision of houses for the working classes. Such assistance may take the form of grants or loans, subscriptions for share or loan capital, and guarantees for the payment of interest by the Society; and for those objects borrowing powers are conferred upon the Local Authority.

Section 18 enables a Local Authority to advance to the owners loans for the reconstruction, enlargement and improvement of houses or buildings capable of being made suitable for occupation by the working classes.

Byelaws.—Section 19 authorises in pursuance of a housing scheme the relaxation of building byelaws in the cases of new

buildings, public streets and roads, which are constructed in accordance with plans and specifications approved of by the Local Government Board; and provides that this relaxation may be extended to similar works for a like purpose, though not forming part of a scheme.

Section 20 confers on the Local Authority powers to make byelaws with respect to houses which, if wisely exercised, will have a most important effect upon the health and well-being, both physical and moral, of many working-class families. Without any declaration by the Board, the Local Authority of each urban district and town under municipal government can henceforward make and enforce byelaws for the matters specified in Section 100 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878. This power, moreover, is extended to touch a great variety of matters, detailed in the new Section, which will intimately and beneficially affect the privacy, comfort, sanitation, accommodation and general amenity of houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family. In the event of an owner of such a house failing to comply with the byelaws after due notice, the Local Authority may execute the necessary works and recover the costs and expenses from him. Provisions are also made, *inter alia*, for the relaxation of leases or agreements inconsistent with the requirements of byelaws and for the making of byelaws by the Board, if the Local Authority fail to do their duty in that respect.

Section 21 provides that during three years from the passing of the Act buildings may be erected and inhabited which do not conform to byelaws, provided they comply with Regulations made by the Board and conditions imposed by the Local Authority.

Miscellaneous Provisions.—Under Section 22 a Local Authority may obtain an order from a County Court varying the terms of a lease or other instrument prohibiting or restricting a suitable house from being converted into tenements or flats.

Section 23 empowers a Local Authority to serve notice upon the owner of a house in disrepair, requiring him, within not less than twenty-one days, to make it in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Should he fail to do so, they may execute the necessary works at his expense; unless he elects to close the house.

Under Section 25 any person interested in lands used in whole or part as a site for houses for the working classes may obtain an Order from the Court entrusting him with the carrying out of a scheme of reconstruction or improvement approved by the Local Authority, under their supervision. This provision removes many of the difficulties experienced in securing the improvement of old property held on leases the term of which has nearly expired.

Section 26 extends the powers conferred upon a tenant for life by the Settled Land Acts by enabling him (a) to grant sites

for houses or gardens to an extent of not more than 2 acres in any one parish in an urban district or in any one townland in a rural district, and (b) to mortgage the settled land to raise money for the provision of houses for the working classes.

Section 27 ensures that the powers of the Local Authority shall not be affected by anything in the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restrictions) Acts.

Section 28 contains a useful provision enabling a Local Authority to recover possession, by the speedy and economical procedure of the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act, 1861, of premises wherever situated and whatever may be the rent or term of tenancy.

Section 29 effects a most valuable shortening in the procedure in connection with a Petition for compulsory powers of acquiring lands.

Section 6 of the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908 (the "Clancy Act") enabled the advertisements of a Local Authority's proposals, previously required by statute to be published once in each of three consecutive weeks in one of three specified months, to be published in any month of the year, and the necessary notices to owners, etc., to be served in the succeeding month. In future, the advertisements need only be published once and the notices may be served at any time thereafter.

Under Section 30 the Lord Lieutenant by Order in Council may adapt and apply to Ireland certain enactments, specified in the Second Schedule to the Act, which are contained in the English Housing Acts of 1908 and 1909. As the sections specified include the part of the Act of 1909 which relates to Town Planning, this Section of the Irish Act may have far-reaching results in some of the cities and towns in this country.

Section 32 is most important. It enacts that "The Local Government Board may make rules for carrying the Housing Acts into effect and in particular for prescribing the duties, conditions of employment, and qualifications of officers and other persons employed by Local Authorities in the execution of those Acts; Provided that any rules with respect to the qualifications or conditions of employment of architects to be so employed, shall be made after consultation with the President of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland."

Section 33 contains definitions of "public utility societies," "housing trusts," "building byelaws," etc., and incidentally enables certain unnecessary and expensive requirements of old statutes with respect to carrying party-walls of houses above the roofs to be disregarded in building working-class houses.

PART II.

This part of the Act consists of Section 34 and contains amendments of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899, the important nature and effect of which will probably become increasingly

apparent in the course of a few years, when it may be hoped the present abnormally high cost of houses will have decreased.

The Section increases from £400 to £800 the limit on the market value of a house for the purchase of which by its occupier a Local Authority for the purposes of the Act of 1899 may make advances; empowers the Local Authority to advance up to 90 per cent. of the market value, instead of 80 per cent. as hitherto; and substitutes fifty years for thirty years as the maximum period which the Authority may allow for the repayment of the advances.

The Section also repeals the proviso in Section 1 of the Act of 1899 which fixed a definite maximum for advances in any particular case.

THE SCHEDULES.

The First and Second Schedules are complementary to Sections 6 and 30, respectively.

Third Schedule.—This Schedule contains many minor and some important amendments to Part I., Part II. and the Second Schedule of the Act of 1890.

In future a Medical Officer of Health may be required to make a representation under Part I. of the Act of 1890 as to whether an area is or is not unhealthy, if complaint is made to him by one justice of the peace or six ratepayers, instead of two justices or twelve ratepayers, as hitherto; and if the Medical Officer makes default in the matter, the complainants will not be required to give security when appealing to the Local Government Board.

Under Part II. of the Act of 1890, complaint that a dwelling-house is unfit for human habitation may henceforward be made to a Medical Officer of Health by any justice of the peace or any four householders in a district.

What should prove to be an extremely valuable amendment is the extension of the expression "land" so as to include any land covered with water, any water, and any right to take and convey water. In the case of some schemes this amendment will obviate the necessity of obtaining a separate Provisional Order, requiring confirmation by Parliament, in order to secure a water supply under the procedure of the Public Health (Ireland) Acts.

The Act repeals the provisions as to appeals against an Arbitrator's award which are contained in Articles (12), (26) and (27) of the Second Schedule of the Act of 1890.

The main alterations in procedure are as follows:—(1) Upon completing an improvement scheme under Part I. of the Act of 1890 a Local Authority must *forthwith* publish the advertisement required under Section 7; (2) when a Provisional Order has

been granted, only notices of it, instead of copies of it, need be served upon the parties interested, under Section 8 (5); (3) after a Provisional Order has been confirmed a Local Authority will no longer be required under Section 12 (1) to acquire forthwith a leasehold interest which can be allowed to expire without unduly delaying the execution of the authorised scheme; (4) the notices hitherto required by Section 14 of the Act of 1890 to be given to occupiers of houses authorised to be taken are abolished; (5) maps and schedules for the purposes of Arbitration may be prepared at any time before application is made for the appointment of an arbitrator; and (6) notice of the deposit of an arbitrator's award need be published by the Local Authority once only, instead of once in each of three successive weeks.

*Housing Department,
Local Government Board,
DUBLIN : 19th August, 1919.*

County Councils and Rural District Councils were informed of the provisions of the Act which affected their powers and duties; and steps were taken to obtain wide publicity for those provisions in the Act which affected not primarily Local Authorities, but Public Utility Societies, Housing Trusts and private persons.

The important provisions of the Housing (Additional Powers) Act which instituted grants to private builders and enabled Local Authorities to issue Housing Bonds and to prohibit "luxury" buildings and the demolition of dwelling houses, were brought under the notice of Municipal Authorities in the following Circular :—

HOUSING DEPARTMENT,
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, DUBLIN, 22nd January, 1920.

SIR,

I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to enclose a copy of the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, and to draw the attention of your local authority to the provisions mentioned hereunder as affecting their powers and duties.

For the purposes of the Act a local authority means an urban sanitary authority or a body of town commissioners.

The Act is intended to ease the burdens of the housing difficulties which weigh upon municipal authorities under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, 1890 to 1919. This it does in four main ways. First, it is sought to stimulate building by private enterprise by offering a substantial grant in respect of each house so provided within sixteen months from the 23rd December, 1919. In the second place, local authorities may

prohibit the demolition of dwelling houses or the carrying out of any building operations which may interfere with the provision of dwelling houses. Thirdly, methods of borrowing are extended; and finally, increased financial aid is offered to Public Utility Societies which provide houses for the working classes.

Grants to Private Builders.—Under Sections 1, 2 and 11 grants may be made out of money provided by Parliament to any person or bodies of persons constructing in municipal areas houses complying with the conditions laid down by the Local Government Board and in material accordance with the standards required by them in the case of a housing scheme promoted by a local authority. The construction of each such house must be begun after the 23rd December, 1919, and be completed by the 23rd December, 1920, or, in special cases, by the 23rd April, 1921. The grants, however, in these exceptional instances will be proportionately reduced; unless the delay in completion was unavoidable. In every case, before a grant is made a certificate that the house has been completed in a proper and workmanlike manner must be given by the local authority or, on appeal, by the Board.

Copies of the Conditions Governing the Grants are enclosed, from which it will be seen that the amount of the grant will vary from £130 to £160 per house in accordance with the accommodation provided. The minimum amount is payable for a house containing a living room and two bedrooms, and the maximum for a house containing living room, parlour and three or four bedrooms. No grant will be payable for houses with more than four bedrooms or with a floor area of more than 1,400 sq. ft. Grants may be given for two-storied buildings containing flats and for houses constructed by special methods.

The approval of the plans of a house will devolve upon the Corporation, Urban District Council or Town Commissioners within whose area it is to be built, or, in case of dispute, upon the Board; and during construction a house will be subject to inspection by the local authority.

It is to be noted that a house cannot be made the subject at the same time of a grant under this Act and of State-aid, either to a local authority or to a Public Utility Society, under the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919.

Additional copies of the Conditions respecting the Grants can be obtained from the Board on request.

Conversion of Buildings.—By Section 14 (5) of the Act, Section 16 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, is applied to Ireland, the enactment being as follows:—

“For the purpose of assisting in the preparation and carrying out of schemes under this Act, or for the purpose

of securing the immediate provision of dwelling-accommodation in the area of any local authority pending the preparation of a scheme by such authority, the Local Government Board may, with the consent of the Treasury, acquire and hold lands and buildings, erect buildings, alter, enlarge, repair, and improve buildings, and dispose of any lands or buildings so acquired or erected, and for such purposes the Board may exercise any of the powers of a local authority under the Housing Acts in regard to the acquisition and disposal of land and buildings."

Section 3 of the accompanying Act makes provision that any expense incurred by the Board in converting buildings into separate tenements in pursuance of the above power shall be recovered from the local authority or be payable by the State.

Financial Assistance to Public Utility Societies.—Section 4 provides a substantial increase for the next seven years in the financial assistance payable under Section 15 of the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, to Public Utility Societies and Housing Trusts which provide houses for the working classes under approved schemes. Hitherto the assistance offered has been 30 per cent. of the annual loan charges on the total capital expenditure incurred, but in future the State-aid will be 50 per cent. of such charges until the 31st March, 1927, and 30 per cent. thereafter.

Prohibition of "luxury" building.—Section 5 empowers a local authority (urban sanitary authority or body of town commissioners) to prohibit in certain circumstances the construction within their area of buildings the erection of which is likely to interfere with the provision of dwelling accommodation.

Sub-section 1 reads as follows :—

"Where it appears to a local authority that the provision of dwelling accommodation within their area is or is likely to be delayed by a deficiency of labour or materials arising out of the employment of labour or material in the construction within the area of any works or buildings (other than works or buildings authorised or required by, under, or in pursuance of any Act of Parliament), and that the construction of those works or buildings is in the circumstances of the case of less public importance for the time being than the provision of dwelling accommodation, the authority may by order prohibit for such time and on such terms and subject to such conditions as the [Board] may from time to time prescribe, and either in whole or in part, the construction of those works or buildings."

The Section further provides (1) for the making of appeals against a local authority's decision to the Local Government

Board; (2) for the reference of such appeals to a standing tribunal of appeal appointed by the Board; and (3) for the imposition of substantial penalties on every person responsible for failure to comply with the terms of an Order of the local authority. If the offence is continuous, the fine may be £50 per diem.

Prohibition on demolition of dwelling houses.—Under Section 6, if any person without the local authority's permission demolishes, wholly or partly, or uses otherwise than as a dwelling house any house which on the 3rd December, 1919, was reasonably fit for human habitation, he will be liable to imprisonment for three months and a fine of £100.

An appeal may be made to the Board by any person to whom permission to demolish a house has been refused by a local authority.

Issue of local bonds by local authorities.—Sections 7 and 11 empower a local authority within the meaning of Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 (*i.e.*, each urban sanitary authority and body of town commissioners), to borrow for the purposes of the Housing Acts by the issue of bonds, with the consent of the Board. Provision is also made for two or more local authorities making a joint issue of bonds upon the security of their joint rates, property or revenues, if the Board approve.

Local Bonds are to be issued for periods of not less than five years in denominations of £5, £10, £20, £50 and £100 and multiples of £100. The rate of interest will be fixed from time to time by the Treasury and the security will be all the rates, property and revenues of the local authority. Among other advantages attaching to the Local Bonds, they will be Trustee Securities, exempt from Stamp Duty, and acceptable by the issuing local authority at their nominal value in payment for houses; and interest will be payable free of income tax on holdings of bonds not exceeding £100 in nominal amount.

Regulations may be made with the approval of the Treasury respecting the issue, etc., of the bonds.

Power to borrow outside the United Kingdom made permanent.—Section 8 renders permanent the power which was temporarily conferred by Section 1 (2) of the Public Authorities and Bodies (Loans) Act, 1916, of borrowing money by means of the issue of securities to bearer, whether within or without the United Kingdom. The specified Sub-section of the Act of 1916 now reads as follows:—

“The Council of any county or municipal borough or of any urban district may, with the consent of the Treasury and subject to such conditions as the Treasury may impose, borrow any sums which they have power to borrow for the time being by means of the issue of bearer bonds or other securities to bearer, whether within or without the United Kingdom, and, if thought fit, in any foreign currency.

"Any such bonds or securities shall rank, as respects other securities issued by the council, in the same manner as if the sum borrowed by means of those bonds or other securities had been borrowed by means of the issue of stock."

Securities made Trustee investments.—Section 9 causes to rank as Trustee Securities for the purposes of Section 1 of the Trustee Act, 1893, local bonds for housing and mortgages of any fund or rate granted by an urban sanitary authority or body of town commissioners after the 23rd December, 1919, in pursuance of any Act or Provisional Order.

Land for Garden Cities or Town Planning Schemes.—Section 10 empowers the Board, subject to certain conditions, to acquire lands for garden cities or town planning schemes on behalf of local authorities or authorised associations and to vest in them the said lands.

A local authority also is empowered to acquire and develop land under the Section and to borrow money to that end.

Temporary duration of provisions.—The provisions of the Act will continue in force only until the 23rd December, 1921, except the provisions which relate to borrowing powers for housing purposes, the Public Authorities and Bodies (Loans) Act, 1916, trustee securities, and the acquisition of land for garden cities and town planning schemes.—I am, etc.,

ARTHUR D. CODLING,

Secretary to the Housing Committee.

To

The Town Clerk of each Co. Borough and Borough, and the Clerk of each other Urban District and each Town with Town Commissioners.

Housing Surveys.

Under Section 1 of the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, it became for the first time incumbent upon each Urban District Council and Body of Town Commissioners to ascertain the needs of their district, with respect to the provision of houses for the working classes, and to prepare and submit to us from time to time housing schemes specifying certain Statutory particulars. The first scheme being definitely required by the 15th November, the Housing Committee forwarded to the Authorities Forms of Survey to be completed. The Forms were drawn up so as to give a conspectus or comprehensive view of the needs of a district and the proposals of the Local Authority and to furnish the particulars required by the Act. We intimated that if a completed Form bore evidence that the Survey had been carefully made it was our intention to regard Section VI. thereof as the Scheme for the purposes of compliance with the first Section of the

Statute. Such a Scheme was in outline only and not accompanied by site-plans, house-designs and estimates; but each set forth, *inter alia*, the types and approximate number of houses to be provided by the Local Authority, the quantity of land required and the time within which the Scheme (or the several parts thereof) was proposed to be carried into execution.

The particulars contained in carefully framed Surveys will, as already noted, be of capital importance for some years in connection with housing proposals.

The main headings of the Form were :—

Section I.—*Prevailing Conditions Affecting Shortage of Houses—*

Industries (including anticipated development)—Population—Existing Housing Accommodation—Overcrowding—Rents of the various types of working-class houses.

Section II.—*Estimate of working-class houses required during the next three years, after deducting houses likely to be built by other agencies or to be set free by decrease in the population.*

Section III.—*Areas which are being, or may have to be, dealt with as unhealthy under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890.*

Section IV.—*Insanitary Houses* (other than those in Section III.).

(In this Section the number of houses which cannot be made fit for human habitation and the number seriously defective but capable of being made habitable are shown separately, together with information to show what action is contemplated by the local authority with regard to each class.)

Section V.—*A map of the district, coloured as directed, so as to indicate areas where housing conditions are unsatisfactory.*

Section VI.—*Scheme for the provision of New Houses* under Section I. of the Act.

Forms of Survey were received in respect of 107 out of the 127 municipalities to which the Housing Acts relate. Several of the Local Authorities which did not complete their Forms were Town Commissioners, who looked to the Councils of the Rural Districts of which their towns formed part, to provide under the Labourers Acts whatever houses were needed, in collaboration with the Commissioners. In other small towns

where the Local Authorities did not propose housing schemes, houses are being provided by private enterprise under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act.

Altogether 61,468 houses were estimated to be required and 53,250 houses were proposed to be provided ultimately.

As a rule the Survey Forms were well filled in; but, owing to the limited time available for investigation, the particulars as to unfit houses are probably not as reliable as the other information.

Sites and Lay-outs.

The conditions to be observed and the standard desirable to attain in the selection of lay-outs of sites were dealt with fully and precisely in Memoranda dated the 5th May and 11th September which were circulated to urban housing authorities. In general, we endeavoured to secure the best results in accordance with modern standards, without unduly restricting the initiative or freedom of authorities.

We considered that the average number of houses to the acre should not exceed 12, and on no single acre should the number exceed 20; and we suggested that in all large schemes land should be set aside, unless sufficient provision already exists in the immediate vicinity, for the future erection of shops and public buildings. Guidance was also afforded in the Memoranda in such matters as road-system, open spaces, development of sites and the grouping and aspect of houses.

Lay-out plans of typical sites selected from the designs sent in for the Architectural Competition mentioned below were included in a volume of plans issued by us.

House-Designs.

The two Memoranda just mentioned laid down the standard of accommodation in houses which we considered desirable, having regard to the fact that the Government were prepared to bear such a large proportion of the cost of the houses.

A living room, scullery and two bedrooms are required as a minimum, and it was suggested that a parlour should be provided in at least 40 per cent. of the houses. In every case a larder, coal store, separate sanitary accommodation and a bath, or space therefor, are considered necessary.

The height of rooms throughout on the ground floor and the average height of rooms on the upper floor is to be 8 ft., with a minimum height of 7 ft. where a ceiling is coved.

The standard considered desirable by the Board is as follows :—

Class	Description	Living room sq. ft.	Scullery sq. ft.	Parlour sq. ft.	BEDROOMS.				Total net floor area in habitable rooms sq. ft.
					1 sq. ft.	2 sq. ft.	3 sq. ft.	4 sq. ft.	
A.	Two Bedroom house ...	180	80	—	160	120	—	—	460
B.	Two Bedroom house with Parlour ...	160	80	110	160	120	—	—	550
C.	Three Bedroom house ...	180	80	—	160	120	80	—	540
D.	Three Bedroom house with Parlour ...	160	80	110	160	120	80	—	630
E.	Four Bedroom house ...	180	80	—	160	120	80	80	620
F.	Four Bedroom house with Parlour ...	160	80	110	160	120	80	80	710

For the smallest bedroom a cubicle with a minimum floor area of 60 sq. ft. may be substituted.

Architectural Competition.

Recognising the importance of the application to housing schemes of the highest professional ability, we obtained authority to provide premiums for an Architectural Competition, and requested the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland to conduct it under conditions calculated to secure designs for suitable and economical types of houses grouped in the most advantageous manner on typical sites. Conditions were accordingly prepared for a competition :—

- (1) For plans of four types of houses and the lay-out of a housing scheme on each of three typical sites.
- (2) For plans showing how existing four-storied houses, originally built for the occupation of one family, might be suitably and economically adapted to provide flats of moderate size for a number of families.

Premiums to the total value of £500 were provided for the most meritorious designs. The Assessors appointed by the Royal Institute were: The President, Mr. Kaye-Parry, F.R.I.B.A.; Mr. Henry Seaver, B.E., F.R.I.A.I.; and Mr. T. J. Byrne, A.R.I.B.A.

A selection of plans submitted in the Competition was issued with a view to assisting local authorities in the consideration of the development of sites and the preparation of suitable designs for houses.

We appended to the volume a number of diagrammatic plans showing what appeared to be very economical internal arrangements of houses of various sizes, providing the accommodation stated as desirable in our Memoranda.

Employment of Architects.

Under Section 32 of the Housing Act, quoted above, we made an Order requiring the employment of a fit and qualified architect for the purpose of every housing scheme, laying down the qualifications of such architects and defining the duties and conditions of their employment, and prescribing scales of fees for work in respect of (1) preparation of lay-out plans, (2) roads and sewers and (3) houses and flats.

Under the Order the following persons are deemed qualified for employment :—

- (1) Fellows or Members of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, or Fellows, Associates or Licentiates of the Royal Institute of British Architects ;
- (2) City, Borough, and Town Surveyors who satisfy the Board that they are personally qualified for such employment ;
- (3) Persons who by examination or the production of testimonials or other evidence satisfy the Board that they have sufficient qualifications for such employment.

We further decided to form a panel of Architects qualified for employment as above, and to that end appointed a Joint Committee consisting of the four members of the Board's Housing Committee and two Architects selected from four nominated by the Council of the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, viz., A. E. Murray, Esq., R.H.A., F.R.I.A.I., F.R.I.B.A., and G. P. Sheridan, Esq., F.R.I.A.I., A.R.I.B.A.

Employment of Quantity Surveyors.

We decided that it was most desirable that the services of a Quantity Surveyor, in regular practice as such, should be obtained before tenders were invited for the erection of houses. We accordingly informed local authorities that they should have quantities taken out save in most exceptional cases, pointing out that neglect to do so would prove no real economy of time or money and would render accurate comparison of competitive tenders impossible.

We also came to an agreement with the Quantity Surveyors' Sub-Committee of the Surveyors' Institution (Irish Branch) regarding the scale of fees to be paid for the preparation of bills of quantities for Housing Schemes.

Acquisition of Land.

Valuation of approved Sites.—In order to assist Local Authorities to acquire land for housing schemes on the most economical terms and to avoid, if possible, the expenses of having recourse

to the procedure for compulsory acquisition of sites, we made arrangements with the Commissioner of Valuation under which Official Valuers give opinions on the value of approved sites and enter into negotiations respecting the terms of acquisition of the lands, provided the Local Authorities so desire and have notified the several parties interested of their intention to take the lands.

The functions of the valuers are confined to sites definitely selected by Councils or Town Commissioners and approved of by our Housing Committee.

Powers and Procedure.—By the legislation passed during the year the powers of Municipal Authorities were substantially enlarged, especially as regards the acquisition and disposal of lands, etc. The procedure also by which land may be acquired compulsorily was simplified and shortened with respect to several of the stages both before and after the obtaining of a Provisional Order.

Detailed reference has already been made to the foregoing points in the observations above* on Sections 6 to 12, 22, 23, 28, 29 and the Third Schedule to the Housing (Ireland) Act.

Revised Instructions were issued early in October as to Provisional Order procedure under the Housing Acts, together with copies of the Second Schedule of the Act of 1890 as amended by the Act of 1919; whilst in February a new Order in Council was circulated, adapting the Labourers Acts procedure respecting confirmation of Provisional Orders to the purposes of the Housing Acts.

During March, in pursuance of the Order in Council, we made an Order prescribing the manner of service of notices or copies of Provisional Orders and the period within which Petitions against any such Provisional Order may be presented to us or to the County Court.

Provisional Orders.—Four petitions for Provisional Orders were inquired into during the year. Two schemes were put forward under Part I of the Act of 1890 and two under Part III. One Part I. scheme was included in a Provisional Order which was ultimately confirmed; whilst the Inspector refused to make an Order respecting the other Part I. scheme. The Inspector made a Provisional Order regarding one of the Part III. schemes. A petition was lodged against the Order and has not yet been dealt with by the County Court. The Provisional Order confirming the second Part III. scheme was not made during the financial year.

Compensation.—The Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act, which received the Royal Assent on the 19th August, made sweeping changes in the law relating to the fixing

* See pages lvi to lxii

of compensation for lands acquired compulsorily for public purposes. Instead of going before an Arbitrator appointed by the Board, cases of disputed compensation under the Housing Acts will be generally determined in future by an Official Arbitrator selected in accordance with rules made by a Reference Committee consisting of the Lord Chief Justice, The Master of the Rolls, and the President of the Surveyors' Institution. The value of land acquired compulsorily is generally to be taken as the amount which it would realise if sold in the open market by a willing seller, and an Official Arbitrator may make no allowance on account of the acquisition being compulsory. Any increase in the value of land arising from its use in a manner detrimental to health is not to be taken into account. Procedure prior to and at the sitting of an Official Arbitrator is shortened and cheapened; and full provisions are laid down for his guidance in awarding costs.

Questions of disputed compensation may, however, be referred, if the parties so agree, to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue or to an agreed Arbitrator.

No Arbitration was held under this Act during the year.

Exchequer Subsidy to Local Authorities.

The original offer of the Government was to give an Exchequer Subsidy to Local Authorities of 20s. for each £ of rent collected in respect of houses erected under an approved scheme, provided such assistance were required to meet an actual loss. During the passage of the Irish Housing Bill through its Committee stage, it was agreed to give 25s. to the £ in ordinary cases and 27s. 6d. to the £ when exceptional necessity was proved to our satisfaction to exist. Pending the completion and letting of the houses, the subsidy was to equal the interest on the first and subsequent instalments of the loan for a maximum period of one year from the signing of the contracts for the erection of houses. These terms were embodied in Draft Regulations presented to Parliament.

The increasing cost of labour and materials during the year made Local Authorities more and more doubtful as to the adequacy of this financial assistance; and at the end of the year, as already noted, the question of increasing the rate of subsidy was before our President. Definitive Regulations have, therefore, still to be made.

It may be observed that the computation of the Exchequer Subsidy for housing schemes in this country is simple and not hedged about by manifold restrictions. Instead of a system of estimates and allowances and disallowances, each item of which, especially the sufficiency of the rents proposed to be charged, may become the subject of dispute between the Local Authority and the Board, an actual figure ascertained by audit forms the

basis of the Irish subsidy; and the rate of subsidy will remain undisturbed until 1927 and will then only be reduced if a Local Authority has evidently not exercised due economy in administration and secured the best rents obtainable.

LOANS.

Rates of interest and repayment.—Since the 21st November the rate of interest on loans granted in respect of subsidised housing schemes has been 6 per cent. per annum, whether the loans are granted to Local Authorities for any period or to Public Utility Societies for periods not exceeding 50 years. This rate is, however, provisional only.

Loans from Public Funds for all purposes of subsidised housing schemes are now repayable on the annuity system, not on the basis of equal instalments of principal with interest on the amount outstanding. Under Section 1(2) of the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908, interest only is payable during the two years following the exercise of borrowing powers; so that, if a housing loan is borrowed for 60 years (the usual period), 116 half-yearly instalments of annuity at the rate of £6 4s. per cent. will be payable to the Commissioners of Public Works.

The rates of annual interest on other loans secured on local rates are 6 per cent. for a period not exceeding 30 years and 6½ per cent. for a period not exceeding 50 years.

Loans applied for and sanctioned.—Loans amounting to £841,929 were applied for during the year in respect of the housing schemes of Municipal Authorities; and an application was made by the Belfast Corporation for a loan of £50,000 to permit advances to be made under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 and 1919.

The latter loan was sanctioned and the Corporation also received sanction to a loan of £21,000 for the erection of a number of experimental dwelling houses for the working classes.

The total of all the loans sanctioned up to the end of the financial year for the purposes of Part III of the Act of 1890 is £1,949,617 10s., of which amount £1,175,405 10s. has been sanctioned since the passing of the Act of 1908.

Public Utility Societies and Housing Trusts.

Under the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, the State offered a subsidy of 30 per cent. of the annual loan charges on the total capital expenditure incurred by a Public Utility Society for the purposes of an approved housing scheme. This subsidy was increased under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act by an additional 20 per cent. in respect of the period ending the 31st March, 1927.

The former Act also empowered the Commissioners of Public Works to advance loans to such a Society for a maximum period of 50 years instead of 40 ; and, for a limited period, increased the proportion of the cost of the mortgaged property which might be advanced as a loan from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent.

Municipal Authorities moreover were empowered to promote the formation of Public Utility Societies and to assist them by grants, loans and subscriptions to share or loan capital and by financial guarantees.

To facilitate the formation of such Societies we made special arrangements by which a Society may use and adopt the comprehensive Model Rules of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association and may effect the necessary registration of the Society with the Registrar of Friendly Societies (Ireland) for an inclusive fee of £2 ; whereas a Society framing and adopting special Rules must pay a fee of £5 for registration only.

Under the two Acts mentioned, an annual subsidy at the same rates as those specified above may be paid to Housing Trusts : but the provisions in the Acts as to loans from Public Funds and aid from Local Authorities do not apply to such Trusts.

Operations by Public Utility Societies are mentioned in the General Survey above.

Grants to Private Builders.

Sections 1 and 2 of the Additional Powers Act authorised the making of grants to an amount not exceeding 15 Million Pounds to persons or bodies of persons constructing houses between the 23rd December, 1919, and the 23rd December, 1920, in accordance with conditions laid down with the approval of the Treasury. The Act in its application to Ireland related only to houses built in municipal areas ; and the sum allocated to this country out of the above aggregate amount was £1,350,000.

Under the conditions made by us the grants at first were as follows :—

- (a) In respect of houses containing living room, parlour and three or four bedrooms, and comprising not less than 920 square feet of floor area—£160 per house.
- (b) In respect of houses containing living room and three bedrooms, and comprising not less than 780 square feet of floor area—£140 per house.
- (c) In respect of houses containing living room and two bedrooms, and comprising not less than 700 square feet of floor area—£130 per house.

No grant is payable in respect of any house having more than four bedrooms or a floor area in excess of 1,400 square feet.

Subsequent to the close of the financial year the above grants were increased by £100 each.

The procedure for obtaining these grants was simple, wide publicity was sought for the scheme and the results achieved were most encouraging, having regard to the circumstances of this country. By the end of the year Local Authorities had issued Certificates approving of some hundreds of house-plans for the purposes of grants.

Town Planning.

In pursuance of the provisions of Section 30 of the Housing Act of 1919 we applied to the Privy Council for an Order in Council declaring applicable to Ireland, with such adaptations as seem necessary, certain of the English enactments relating to Town Planning which are specified in the Second Schedule to the Act.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 and 1919.

The amendments effected in the Act of 1899 by Part II of the Housing (Ireland) Act, 1919, are set forth in the Board's Memorandum of the 19th August, 1919, printed above;* and the operations under the Acts have also been mentioned, under the head of Loans.

Temporary Relaxation of Building Bye-Laws.

Section 21 of the Housing (I.) Act of 1919 empowered Local Authorities to consent, during three years from the 15th August, 1919, to the erection and use for human habitation of buildings of a kind not permissible under existing Bye-laws, provided such buildings complied with Regulations to be made by the Board. Accordingly, "The Local Government Board (Temporary Relaxation of Building Bye-laws) Regulations, 1920," were made and issued, with an explanatory Memorandum, to the Authorities concerned.

(B.) LABOURERS ACTS.

Early in the financial year under review the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury intimated to us that, whilst unable to agree to the unrestricted resumption of Loans for the promotion of new Improvement schemes, their Lordships were prepared to authorise the issue of such advances from the fund provided by section 16 of the Labourers Act, 1906, as should be shown to our satisfaction to be urgently required for districts where the replacement of cottages condemned as unfit for human habitation had been postponed owing to the war or where, owing to the limited operations of the Council under the Acts, there

* See pages lx and lxi.

was an exceptional shortage of labourers cottages. We accordingly by circular dated 23rd May, 1919, brought the above facts to the notice of all Rural District Councils, intimating at the same time that we were prepared to entertain applications for loans in compliance with the Treasury conditions and requesting that with all such applications information showing that urgency existed should be furnished. The majority of the local authorities, however, failed to furnish returns in response to the circular, and little progress was made during the year. Generally speaking, Councils were not disposed to proceed with new works. The constant increases in the cost of labour and materials discouraged local authorities from attempting building operations and also greatly hampered them in carrying out much needed repairs to existing cottages. A comparison of estimates received from various parts of Ireland shows that the present average cost of building a cottage and plot is not less than £450, as against an average cost of about £180 in 1914. In view of the increased cost of building and to enable Councils to complete cottages postponed during the War and to proceed to make new Improvement Schemes where necessary, we decided to increase the maximum advance out of Land Purchase Funds in respect of each cottage and plot by £100 to £270.*

During the year ended 31st March last we received 2 Improvement Schemes proposing the erection of 46 cottages and 71 allotments, and the total number of Schemes now lodged with us and awaiting Inquiry is 36. These schemes propose the erection of 3,202 cottages; but many of the Schemes will have to be re-cast, more particularly in view of the requirements as to urgency and to the need of the small towns which are dealt with in the last paragraph of this portion of our Report.

During the year 3 Provisional Orders were made authorising the acquisition of 139 allotments.

Up to the 31st March last the total number of cottages authorised under the Labourers Acts is 54,060 and the number provided 47,966; whilst the number in course of construction on that date was 161 and the number authorised and yet to be built 3,672.

The number provided in each province is as follows:—

Ulster	...	...	9,033
Munster	...	...	19,114
Leinster	...	...	17,346
Connaught	...	...	2,473

The number of cottages actually authorised to be built, the erection of which had to be postponed in consequence of the War,

*In April last we increased this amount to three-fourths of the cost of land and buildings, inclusive of reasonable contingent charges.

is 3,300, in respect of which loans amounting to £429,000 were sanctioned.

During the year we authorised the Councils of five Rural Districts to borrow in the open market sums amounting to £17,275 in connection with the carrying out of Improvement Schemes, the loans previously sanctioned and available from public funds having proved insufficient.

These supplemental loans were obtained from Banking Companies—the Treasurers of the Councils—the rate of interest charged being from 4 to 4½ per cent. per annum and the periods of repayment ranging from 10 to 20 years.

No new loan out of Land Purchase Funds was sanctioned during the year but we expressed our approval to advances being made out of loans already sanctioned to the extent of £2,085.

The total amount of Loans authorised to be borrowed since the inception of the Acts is £9,072,689 11s. 1d., of which £4,609,131 has been advanced out of Land Purchase Funds ; and there was on 31st March last a sum of £1,640,869 still available out of the Fund of £6,250,000 provided by Section 16 of the Act of 1906, as amended by the Acts of 1911 and 1914.

The rents paid by the tenants during the year amounted to £144,492 19s. 3d., leaving a balance due of £6,464 16s. 0d., which was £553 11s. 4d. less than at the end of the preceding year.

By the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1919, which received the Royal Assent on the 19th August, the definition of the expression " agricultural labourer " in Sec. 93 of the Irish Land Act, 1903, was extended so as to include—

- (a) Any person (other than a domestic or menial servant) working for hire in a rural district whose average wages exceed two shillings and six-pence a day ;
- (b) Any person not working for hire, but working in a rural district at some trade or handicraft without employing any persons except members of his own family.

The Act however does not apply to any such person in occupation of more than one-fourth of an acre of land exclusive of any plot or garden let to him by a Rural District Council. The previously existing limitation on the wages of certain classes of workers is thus removed and houses may now be provided in rural areas under the Labourers Acts for substantially all those classes of workers for whom municipal authorities are empowered to provide houses under the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts. The Act further provides that the rents to be charged to any persons brought within the scope of the Acts by the enactment quoted shall not be less than shall be specially

prescribed by our rules. In pursuance of this power, on the 19th March we issued for the consideration of Rural Councils draft rules proposing that minimum rents should be fixed on the basis of a percentage varying from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. of the capital expenditure incurred in the provision of a cottage and plot and that within these limits the tenant should pay one-eighth of his incomings as rent. In a further Circular dated the 30th March, we indicated our view that in the case of future lettings to persons to whom the new Act does not apply, the rents charged should not materially differ from those fixed as above.

The question of the rents of Labourers Cottages has become of urgent importance, since those commonly charged would now hardly be sufficient even to meet the cost of keeping cottages in a proper state of repair; whilst the adoption of a similar scale in respect of new cottages, the cost of which is estimated as being fully three times that obtaining before the War, would throw an intolerable burden upon the ratepayers. On the other hand, agricultural workers are now undoubtedly able to pay higher rents. We have reason to believe that these facts are clearly apprehended by many Councils, who, however, have hitherto been prevented by the operation of the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts, 1915-1919, from attempting to deal with the situation in any effective manner.*

In the case of the *King (Doyle) v. Gorey Rural District Council*, the Court of Appeal recently decided that Letting Regulations made by Rural District Councils in pursuance of Section 29 of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1906, were defective unless they contained a clause specifically providing against undue preference in the letting of cottages and allotments. Accordingly we issued a Circular at the close of the year under review, requesting local authorities to make amended Regulations, enclosing Model Regulations for their information and guidance and giving detailed instructions in the matter.

Having regard to the extension of the Statutory term "agricultural labourer," we caused inquiry to be made from the Clerks of the several Rural District Councils in respect of the number of cottages provided under the Labourers Acts in and in the immediate vicinity of the small non-municipal towns with an estimated population of at least 500 each, which are included in Rural Districts. From the returns received it would appear that out of the total number of 47,966 cottages already mentioned, 6,207 only are situated in, or within a radius of one mile from, such towns.

There is evidence to show that the condition of housing in many of these places is deplorable, and it would seem that in

* These enactments have now been repealed by the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, which Act moreover does not apply to any dwelling-house provided by a local authority under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1919, or under any of those Acts.

further operations under the Labourers Acts special attention should be directed to semi-urban areas, the needs of the purely agricultural districts having already been met to a considerable extent. In this connection it must be remembered that in Ireland Rural District Councils have no power to propose the provision of houses under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

IRISH LAND (PROVISION FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS)
ACT, 1919.

Under this Act which received the Royal Assent on the 23rd December, 1919, we were empowered to make, confirm and carry out schemes for the provision of cottages with or without plots or gardens for the accommodation of men who served in any of the Naval, Military or Air Forces during the late War, and who satisfy us as to their fitness and suitability.

The Act provides *inter alia* :—

(1) That the land for the purpose may be taken either by agreement or compulsorily, and enables us in carrying out schemes after confirmation to exercise all the powers of the Rural District Councils under the Labourers Act excepting the power of borrowing or causing a rate to be levied ;

(2) That the area of the cottage plots or gardens to be provided shall not exceed two acres ;

(3) That the expenses incurred by the Board in making and carrying out schemes shall to such extent as may be sanctioned by the Treasury be defrayed out of monies provided by Parliament ; and

(4) That the Board's power to acquire land shall cease after three years from the passing of the Act.

Down to the 31st March last we received 7,702 applications from ex-servicemen to be provided with cottages and plots ; and after local investigation by our Inspectors (including personal interviews with applicants) we were in a position, before the end of the year, to make ten schemes providing for the building of 222 cottages and the acquisition of 193 acres 2 roods 32 perches of land for the purpose.

Under arrangements made by the Lords of the Treasury, the Commissioners of Public Works are responsible for the carrying out of the building of the cottages, the fencing of plots and the making of any necessary roads.

After consultation with the Commissioners we adopted three types of cottages in all of which accommodation of a somewhat superior character to that obtaining in the cases of cottages built by Rural District Councils under the Labourers Acts will be provided.

V. PROVISIONAL ORDERS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) ACTS, 1878 TO 1919, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACTS, 1898 TO 1919.

Seven Provisional Orders were made during the year under these Acts, four being the Public Health Acts, and three under the Local Government Acts.

In addition fourteen Orders were made, which, though not strictly Provisional Orders, may most properly be classed with them. Nine Orders made under the Special Acts (Extension of Time) Act, 1915, extended the time during which the compulsory powers conferred by Provisional Orders for taking lands, etc., might be exercised; and the other five were made under the the Statutory Undertakings (Temporary Increase of Charges) Act, 1918, empowering Urban Sanitary Authorities to increase the maximum charge for gas supplied by them where the financial position of the Undertakings had been adversely affected by circumstances arising out of the War.

VI. BORROWING BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

(a) *Relaxation of Restrictions on Borrowing.*

The restrictions imposed by the Lord Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury on capital issues by Local Authorities, which were relaxed to the extent indicated in our circular letter of the 23rd of December, 1918, were further relaxed in May, 1919, when we issued the following circular dealing with the raising of new capital in the open market, and restricting the making of loans from the Local Loans Fund to Authorities with a rateable value not exceeding £200,000 :—

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD,
DUBLIN, 7th May, 1919.

SIR,

I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to state that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury have decided that the control exercised during the War on Their behalf by the Capital Issues Committee over the raising of new capital in the market need no longer be maintained, except as regards issues for capital purposes outside the United Kingdom.

It follows from this decision that it will no longer be necessary for Local Authorities to obtain the sanction of the Treasury for capital expenditure, and that Local Authorities who had obtained the Board's sanction to Loans prior to the 28th of February, 1915, do not now require any further sanction to enable them to raise the loans.

The relaxation of the restrictions on commercial undertakings will, however, naturally tend to reduce the capital immediately available for investment in loans issued by Local Authorities and to increase the cost of such loans to the borrowing authorities; and both for that reason, and in view of the high cost of capital works at the present time, Local Authorities would be well advised to confine themselves to works urgently required either in themselves or on grounds of unemployment.

The Treasury issued on the 2nd ultimo a public notice that borrowing powers granted under Private Bill Legislation during the War, subject to the restriction that the assent of the Treasury must be obtained for any borrowing in the War period, may until further notice be exercised without further Treasury sanction beyond that given in the notice.

In view of the relaxation of all control over capital issues by Local Authorities, the Treasury regard it as essential that loans should only be advanced from the Local Loans Fund to Authorities with a rateable value not exceeding £200,000.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. BARLAS,

Secretary.

The Executive Officer of the
Local Authority.

INVESTMENTS IN WAR LOAN.

When the four per cent. Funding Loan 1960-90 was announced by the Government we issued (on the 26th of June, 1919) circulars to County Borough, County, and Urban Authorities pointing out the important bearing that the successful issue of the Loan would have upon local finance. Consequent upon applications which we received, we sanctioned borrowing for investment in the Loan in the following cases, subject to the condition that the Stock was not to be realized or otherwise applied without our previous consent:—

County Borough Council.		Borrowing sanctioned.	
Belfast	£800,000
County Councils.			
Armagh	10,000
Down	16,000
Urban District Councils.			
Larne	4,000
Omagh	4,800
Portadown	2,000

The Carrickfergus Urban District Council also invested a sum of £950 in the Loan without having recourse to borrowing.

THE DUBLIN RECONSTRUCTION (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ACT,
1916.

Section 3 of the Act authorises the Corporation of Dublin to advance money on the security of the ownership of the site of any house or building which was damaged or destroyed during the rising which took place in April, 1916, for the purpose of enabling the house or building to be rebuilt or restored in such a manner as will comply with the requirements of any existing bye-laws of the Corporation, and any requirements of the City architect under the Act. It is provided by the Section that the advance shall not exceed the difference between the amount which we certify to be the total cost of restoring the house or building in the manner indicated, and the amount of the compensation granted out of public moneys in respect of the destruction of, or damage to, the premises. On the applications of the owners of six houses so destroyed, or damaged, we issued certificates enabling them to apply for the necessary advances.

*(b) Loans sanctioned for Schemes under the Housing Acts, and under the Public Health, etc., Acts.*1. *Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, 1890 to 1919.*

Under these enactments Urban Sanitary Authorities and the Commissioners of Towns which are not Urban Sanitary Districts are empowered to carry out schemes for the improvement of unhealthy areas or for the provision of housing accommodation for the working classes.

Since the passing of the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908, local authorities have been enabled to borrow for longer periods than had previously been allowed.

Irish Housing Fund.

Under Section 5 of the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Act, 1908, the income of this Fund is distributable each year towards meeting the sums payable during that year by Municipal Authorities in respect of moneys borrowed by them for housing purposes after the passing of the Act. We duly ascertained and certified these liabilities of the Authorities and made the following payments during the year. In each case mentioned the annual housing charge indicated above was met to the extent of 11 per cent.

Local Authority.			Amount of Grant.		Local Authority			Amount of Grant.	
			£	s. d.				£	s. d.
Arklow Urban Dis-	trict Council	..	100	9 8	Athy Urban District	Council	..	37	0 1
Armagh Urban Dis-	trict Council	..	3	4 9	Balbriggan Town Com-	missioners	..	6	9 3
Athlone Urban Dis-	trict Council	..	31	6 8	Ballina Urban Dis-	trict Council	..	46	9 5

Local Authority.	Amount of Grant.	Local Authority.	Amount of Grant.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ballinasloe Urban District Council ..	42 1 11	Galway Urban District Council ..	135 6 9
Ballybay Town Commissioners ..	1 3 1	Granard Urban District Council ..	23 5 5
Ballymoney Urban District Council ..	14 14 2	Kells Urban District Council ..	10 7 2
Bandon Town Commissioners ..	27 9 7	Kilkenny Urban District Council ..	97 4 10
Bantry Town Commissioners ..	7 2 10	Killarney Urban District Council ..	32 3 9
Belfast Corporation ..	846 14 1	Killiney and Ballybrack Urban District Council ..	22 16 0
Birr Urban District Council ..	33 1 8	Kingstown Urban District Council ..	161 18 6
Blackrock Urban District Council ..	220 13 7	Letterkenny Urban District Council ..	32 9 0
Bray Urban District Council ..	56 5 9	Limerick Corporation ..	107 5 5
Callan Town Commissioners ..	22 9 8	Longford Urban District Council ..	43 13 6
Carlow Urban District Council ..	87 6 2	Lurgan Urban District Council ..	63 5 5
Carrickmacross Urban District Council ..	32 0 11	Maryborough Town Commissioners ..	30 15 6
Cashel Urban District Council ..	18 4 10	Middleton Urban District Council ..	16 3 2
Castlebar Urban District Council ..	22 1 2	Monaghan Urban District Council ..	26 11 10
Cavan Urban District Council ..	19 4 6	Mountmellick Town Commissioners ..	25 2 4
Clonakilty Urban District Council ..	9 0 2	Mullingar Town Commissioners ..	18 15 1
Clonmel Urban District Council ..	20 18 6	Naas Urban District Council ..	31 6 9
Coleraine Urban District Council ..	27 14 8	Navan Urban District Council ..	55 2 9
Cockstown Urban District Council ..	12 18 3	Nenagh Urban District Council ..	28 8 10
Cootehill Urban District Council ..	9 1 6	Newbridge Town Commissioners ..	3 0 10
Dalkey Urban District Council ..	31 0 0	Newcastle Town Commissioners ..	18 10 2
Drogheda Urban District Council ..	66 15 7	New Ross Urban District Council ..	18 19 6
Dublin Corporation ..	1,483 6 4	Newry Urban District Council ..	77 3 9
Dundalk Urban District Council ..	160 17 11	Omagh Urban District Council ..	9 3 10
Dungannon Urban District Council ..	27 1 2	Pembroke Urban District Council ..	710 11 7
Dungarvan Urban District Council ..	21 2 7	Portrush Urban District Council ..	20 12 8
Ennis Urban District Council ..	141 16 3	Queenstown Urban District Council ..	89 5 1
Enniscorthy Urban District Council ..	46 5 8	Rosecommon Town Commissioners ..	14 10 1
Fermoy Urban District Council ..	89 6 7	Slibbereen Urban District Council ..	18 4 7
Fethard Town Commissioners ..	5 15 3		

Local Authority.	Amount of Grant.	Local Authority	Amount of Grant
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Thurles Urban District Council ..	16 8 8	Tullamore Urban District Council ..	37 9 7
Tipperary Urban District Council ..	84 1 0	Waterford Corporation	168 7 0
Trillick Urban District Council ..	54 2 1	Westport Urban District Council ..	11 17 10
Trim Urban District Council ..	17 19 2	Wexford Urban District Council ..	68 18 4
Tuam Town Commissioners ..	34 5 3	Youghal Urban District Council ..	11 5 2

PART III. OF THE ACT OF 1890.

During the year we sanctioned a loan of £21,000 to the Council of the County Borough of Belfast for the erection of a number of experimental or demonstration types of houses for the working classes.

The amount of this loan, added to the sum of £1,928,617 10s. 0d. mentioned in our last Report, makes a total of £1,949,617 10s. 0d. sanctioned for the purposes of this Part of the principal Act. Of this total, £1,175,405 10s. 0d. has been sanctioned since the passing of the Act of 1908.

2. *The Small Dwellings Acquisition (Ireland) Acts, 1899 and 1919.*

During the year we sanctioned a loan of £50,000 to the Council of the County Borough of Belfast for the purpose of making advances to enable persons to acquire the ownership of their houses under the provisions of these Acts

3. *The Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1919, etc.*

Schemes for sewerage, water supply, and other local improvements are carried out by Sanitary Authorities in Urban, Rural, and United Districts (Urban and Rural) chiefly by means of loans which we sanction in pursuance of Sections 237 and 247 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, and of local enactments. The loans sanctioned during the year for these purposes amounted to £960,352.

Section 237 of the Public Health Act of 1878 applies to borrowing under the headings 1 and 2, as well as to that under this heading. The loans under these three heads amounted to £1,031,352 which, added to similar loans previously sanctioned, gives a total of £13,341,750.

4. *Poor Relief (Ireland) Acts, and the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, Section 61.*

We sanctioned loans amounting to £4,200 for Workhouse buildings and improvements on the application of the Boards of Guardians of the Unions concerned.

5. *Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order, 1898, Article 22.*

Loans amounting to £141,839 under this article have been sanctioned for the purpose of enabling County Councils and the Joint Committees of Lunatic Asylums to carry out works for county improvements, roads, etc., and for the erection of buildings and other works at Asylums.

Rates of Interest on Local Loans.

By Minute dated the 21st of November, 1919, the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury directed that the rates of interest chargeable on loans granted out of the Local Loans Funds subsequent to that date should be as follows:—

I.

HOUSING LOANS

(A) Loans in respect of <i>subsidised</i> Housing Schemes :	Rate of Interest.
(1) Loans to Local Authorities secured on Local Rates—Any period	6%
(2) Loans to Public Utility Societies as defined by the Housing Acts, 1919, limiting their profits to 6% per annum (subject to Income Tax)— Not exceeding 50 years	6%

Provided always that for the present there shall be included in the mortgage in respect of any loan in respect of a subsidised scheme, a condition that the above rates are provisional only, and may be revised when permanent rates can be fixed, such revised rates to run from the commencement of the loan.

(B) Loans in respect of schemes *not receiving subsidy* under the Housing Acts :

(1) to Companies and Private Persons limiting their profits to 6% per annum (subject to Income Tax)— Not exceeding 30 years Not exceeding 40 years	6% 6½%
(2) to Companies and Private Persons not so limiting their profits to 6% (subject to Income Tax)— Not exceeding 30 years Not exceeding 40 years	6½% 6¾%

II.

OTHER LOANS.

				Rate of Interest.
(I.) Loans to Local Authorities for any purposes of the Small Holdings Acts :				
Any period	...	...	...	6%
(II.) Other Loans secured on Local Rates :				
Not exceeding 30 years	...	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
Not exceeding 50 years	...	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
(III.) Loans not secured on Local Rates :				
(a) Loans under the Harbour and Passing Tolls Act, 1861 :				
(i.) With collateral security :				
Not exceeding 30 years	...	...	...	6%
Not exceeding 50 years	...	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ %
(ii.) Without collateral security :				
Not exceeding 30 years	...	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Not exceeding 50 years	...	...	...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ %
(b) Other Loans not secured on Local Rates (except loans to Territorial Associations, which, under Section 6 of the Public Works Loans Act, 1908, bear interest at the Rate prescribed for loans on the security of Local Rates):				
Not exceeding 30 years	...	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Not exceeding 50 years	...	...	...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ %

VII.—PAYMENTS FROM THE LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) ACCOUNT
IN AID OF LOCAL RATES.1. *Grants under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.*

(a.) *In respect of Guardians' Medical and Educational expenditure and of Sanitary Salaries paid in Rural and Urban Districts.*

The following statements show the amounts paid under Section 58 (2) (a) (b) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 as amended by the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902, to county councils, on behalf of boards of guardians and rural district councils, and to urban district councils and the boards of management of Glin and Trim district schools during the year ended the 31st of March, 1920, and the preceding year.

Owing to the insufficiency of the amount paid under Section 58 to the Account during the year under review to meet the payments thereout in the same period Your Excellency deemed it

necessary, in pursuance of Sub-section (5) of the Section, to make an Order directing proportionate abatement of the sums so payable having regard to the said insufficiency. These abatements amounted to £8,914 2s. 7d.

Year ended 31st March, 1920.	Amount claimed.	Amount payable.	Amount paid.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Medical Purposes { Salaries, &c.	91,160 13 8		
Educational Purposes { Medicines ..	26,495 5 2		
	6,596 7 7		
	124,252 6 5	88,904 6 0	81,512 9 2
For Salaries under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878—			
Rural District Councils ..	11,801 7 7	10,513 17 1	9,639 13 10
Urban " " ..	12,188 15 2	7,795 4 9	7,147 2 3
Total ..	148,242 9 2	107,213 7 10	98,299 5 3

Year ended 31st March, 1919.	Amount claimed.	Amount payable.	Amount paid.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Medical Purposes { Salaries, &c.	89,592 6 2		
Educational Purposes { Medicines ..	21,558 19 2		
	6,916 13 10		
	109,967 19 2	87,580 18 9	77,895 7 1
For Salaries under the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878—			
Rural District Councils ..	11,609 3 7	10,526 17 1	9,356 14 3
Urban " " ..	11,764 9 1	7,786 8 10	6,924 17 3
Total ..	132,431 11 10	105,894 4 8	94,176 18 7

(b). *Agricultural Grant.*

Under Section 48 (1) (2) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, an annual sum of £727,655, known as the Agricultural Grant, is paid from the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account in aid of local rates, of which the County Councils receive £727,337 6s. 6d., the balance, £317 13s. 6d., being paid to the Council of the County Borough of Dublin, pursuant to Section 50 (1) (2) of that enactment, in consequence of the extension of the area of the borough by the Act 63 and 64 Vict., ch. cclxiv. Of the total amount, a sum of £316,730 10s. is allocated towards Poor Law purposes, "Union charges," £271,824 10s. towards the expenditure of Rural District Councils, "District charges," and £139,100 towards county expenditure in general, "County at large charges."

2 *Grant under the Probate Duties (Scotland and Ireland) Act, 1888 (the Estate or Death Duty Grant).*

Under Section 19 of the Finance Act, 1894 (57 and 58 Vic., chap. 30), the Grant provided by the above enactment which was formerly payable out of probate duties is now payable out of the estate duty derived from personal property, and is known as the Death Duty Grant.

It forms the first item of the cash portion of the Guarantee Fund established under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, to meet deficiencies in the land purchase account in respect of dividends on land stock and sinking fund payments, and the sums required for such purposes, in the case of each county, are withdrawn from the Fund under certificates of the Land Commission. By the Irish Land Act, 1903, the Agricultural Grant is added to and made applicable to the purposes of the cash portion of the Guarantee Fund next after the Death Duty Grant and charges on the Fund resulting from operations under the Act of 1903 are likewise, in the case of each county, withdrawn under certificates of the Commissioners of National Debt; these certificates, and those above-mentioned, also setting forth repayments made to the Fund in respect of sums previously withdrawn. Under the Irish Land Act, 1909, however, local bodies are relieved of all liability in connection with the issue of stock for the purpose of land purchase, but they continue to be liable for purchasers' annuities in arrear, and for the sums drawn from Guarantee Fund under Section 29 of the Act of 1903.

For the purpose of adjusting these withdrawals and repayments in the case of each county, among the public bodies in the county who are entitled to share in the Death Duty Grant, viz., Boards of Guardians and Road Authorities, we are furnished with copies of the certificates referred to on the occasion of the distribution of the second instalment of the Grant, which is made in the month of March each year. On the recent occasion it appeared from the certificates that £194,392 16s. 2d. had been withdrawn from all the counties, and £194,752 19s. 6d. repaid; and, as the repayments in the case of nineteen counties exceeded the withdrawals by £5,541 16s. 2d., the local bodies in these counties received their proportionate part of that amount additional to their share in the instalment, while £5,181 12s. 10d. was deducted from the shares of the local bodies in the remaining fourteen counties.

The total amounts paid during the year ended the 31st of March last were as follows:—

Boards of Guardians	...	...	£183,112	4	7
Road Authorities	...	...	£182,714	10	1
			<hr/>		
			£365,826	14	8

VIII. AUDIT

(a.) *Accounts Audited.*

The following statement shows the number of Public Bodies whose accounts are audited by our Auditors, from which it may be seen that in the course of a year 1,412 accounts are required to be audited :—

Half-yearly Audits.

- 33 County Councils.
- 200 Rural District Councils.
- 154 Boards of Guardians.
- 23 Committees of Management of District Lunatic Asylums.
- 20 Drainage Boards or Committees.
- 2 Committees of Management of District Schools.
- 1 Joint Committee of Urban and Rural District Councils for the management of a cemetery and of sewerage and water supply.
- 8 County Committees of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.
- 25 County Joint Committees of Technical Instruction.
- 25 County Committees of Agriculture.
- 8 Hospital or Infirmary Boards.
- 6 Burial Boards or Cemetery Committees.
- 2 Joint Committees of County Councils for the construction of bridges.
- 26 Tuberculosis Committees.

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Yearly Audits.

- 6 County Borough Councils.
- 5 Non-County Borough Councils.
- 89 Urban District Councils.
- 27 Governing Bodies of Towns other than Urban Districts.
- 138 Educational Endowment Accounts under the Endowment Schemes.
- 1 The Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests.
- 3 Committees of Gasworks.
- 2 Waterworks Authorities.
- 4 Harbour Boards.
- 7 Port Sanitary Authorities.
- 6 Burial Boards or Cemetery Committees.
- 2 Drainage Boards.
- 14 Hospital or Infirmary Boards.
- 1 Board for cleansing of foreshore.
- 6 County Borough Committees of Technical Instruction.
- 30 Urban District Committees of Technical Instruction.
- 2 Joint Urban and Rural Committees of Technical Instruction.
- 3 Tuberculosis Committees.

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(b). *Surcharges, Disallowances, etc.*

During the year we decided appeals against 179 charges, disallowances, and surcharges.

Other surcharges were made in regard to which there were no appeals against the Auditors' decisions; in some cases the question of appeal did not arise, the various items of expenditure to which exception was taken, having been lodged before the completion of audit, thus obviating the necessity of formally disallowing them.

IX.—EXAMINATION OF PARLIAMENTARY BILLS.

Following the usual course, the local and personal Bills introduced into Parliament affecting this country were referred to us for consideration, and we have reported or otherwise notified to Parliament such amendments in them as we deemed to be necessary or expedient.

The subjoined list sets forth the Bills which were deposited at the Irish Office under the Parliamentary Standing Orders, and which were examined by us :—

- Belfast Water.
- City of Dublin Steam Packet Company.
- Dublin Port and Docks.
- Londonderry Bridge Commissioners.
- Londonderry Corporation.
- Londonderry Port and Harbour.
- Newtownards Urban District Council.

Reports were furnished to Parliament upon the Belfast Water, Londonderry Corporation, and Newtownards Urban District Council Bills. We directed our Legal Assistant to attend in Parliament in support of those reports, and for the purpose of furnishing any necessary information to the Committees and Officers of either House in connection therewith.

X.—DEPUTATIONS RECEIVED.

During the year under review we received deputations from the undermentioned local bodies, associations, etc., on subjects of public interest :—

Date.	Local Body, etc.	Subject.
1919.		
27th May ...	Corporation of Belfast ...	Electricity Undertaking, etc.
29th May ...	Corporation of Dublin : Supplies Committee	Printing Contract.
14th July ...	Dublin County Borough Local Relief Committee.	Cessation of Operations.
17th July ...	Arklow ...	Reconstruction.
2nd September	Holywood Urban District Council ...	Waterworks: Grant towards employment of ex-service men.
16th September	Dublin United Trades Council and Labour League.	Salaries of Public Health Staff, Dublin Corporation.
25th September	Corporation of Dublin : Waterworks Committee.	Loan for completion of Roundwood Reservoir.
16th October	Irish Clerical and Allied Workers' Union ...	Wages of Clerical Assistants employed in Offices of Clerk of the Union, Trades.
3rd November	Irish Newspaper Owners' Association. ...	Proportional Representation ; Advertisements.
11th November	National Union of Municipal Officers ...	Dismissal of Staff of Limerick Technical Institute.
13th November	Down County Council.	Quarrying, etc., Account.
21st November	Union and Rural District Clerks' Association	Scales of Salaries.
9th December	Limerick Board of Guardians ...	Election of Clerk.
13th December	Corporation of Dublin : Public Health Committee.	Salaries of Sanitary Officers.
1920.		
28th January	Returning Officers ...	Appointment of Returning Officers for County Council Elections.
20th February	Union and Rural District Clerks' Association.	Scales of Salaries.

XI.—DEPARTMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Sir. E. Coey Bigger, Medical Commissioner, having been appointed as Chairman of the Irish Public Health Council, His Majesty selected one of our Medical Inspectors, Dr. E. F. Stephenson, to act as Medical Commissioner so long as Sir. E. Coey Bigger retains the chairmanship of the Council.

Our Assistant Secretary, Mr. J. E. Devlin, retired during the year under the age rule, and we desire to place on record our appreciation of his long and valuable services to the Department. Mr. E. W. Leach, one of our Senior Clerks, was appointed as Assistant Secretary in Mr. Devlin's place.

Mr. R. C. Lynch, General Inspector, Dr. T. J. Browne, Medical Inspector, and Mr. D. B. Sheehan, Auditor, retired on the ground of age, after faithful and efficient service. Vacancies in the permanent Staff of Inspectors and Auditors, due to retirements or to complete the Establishment, were filled by the appointment of the following gentlemen :—

Mr. F. E. D'Alton as General Inspector, Drs. N. C. Patrick, J. M. McCloy and W. Sterling Berry as Medical Inspectors, and Messrs. D. L. Clarke, J. B. Butler and J. F. Miley as Auditors.

Mr. J. T. Keily, Registrar of Old Age Pensions, was given the status of a General Inspector, and Mr. H. Montgomery Miller was appointed as a temporary General Inspector, in room of an Inspector seconded for special duty.

Dr. J. W. Bigger was appointed as temporary Pathologist to the Board and Dr. J. D. MacCormack, M.C., as temporary Medical Inspector.

A Committee was appointed to advise us in the administration of the Housing Acts consisting of Mr. P. C. Cowan, D.Sc., our Chief Engineer, as Chairman, and Messrs. L. E. H. Deane, Senior Architect, Hugh A. Law and C. H. O'Connor, Inspector, as Members. Two of our Senior Clerks, Mr. A. D. Codling and Mr. Wm. Corbitt, were selected to act as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively, to the Committee.

Messrs. G. B. Deane, H. M. A. Murphy, T. F. Strahan and T. J. Byrne, were appointed temporary Housing Inspectors and Mr. Frank Aylward, temporary Architect.

The following temporary Inspectors were appointed to assist

in carrying into effect the Irish Land (Provision for Sailors and Soldiers) Act, 1919 :—

Colonel J. P. Hunt, C.M.G., D.S.O., D.C.M. ; Captain R. A. V. Hamilton ; Captain C. H. B. St. G. Whyte ; W. F. Treacy, Esq. ; Major J. S. MacLachlan and Colonel R. H. St. C. Robinson.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient Servants,

HAMAR GREENWOOD, *President.*

H. A. ROBINSON, *Vice-President.*

EDMUND BOURKE,
EDWARD F. STEPHENSON, } *Commissioners*

APPENDIX.

COUNTY BOROUGH ELECTORAL AREAS.

County Borough.	Borough Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each Borough Electoral Area		
		Aldermen.	Councillors.	Total.
Belfast ...	Cromac	2	5	7
	Duncairn	2	5	7
	Falls	1	5	6
	Ormeau	1	5	6
	Portlough	1	5	6
	St. Anne's	2	4	6
	Shankill	2	6	8
	Victoria	2	5	7
	Woodvale	2	5	7
	Total	15	45	60
Cork ...	Centre	2	8	10
	North-East	2	8	10
	North-West No. 1	2	5	7
	North-West No. 2	2	4	6
	North-West No. 3	2	4	6
	South No. 1	2	9	11
	South No. 2	2	4	6
	Total	14	42	56
DUBLIN ...	Dublin No. 1	2	7	9
	Dublin No. 2	2	6	8
	Dublin No. 3	2	7	9
	Dublin No. 4	2	8	10
	Dublin No. 5	2	5	7
	Dublin No. 6	2	5	7
	Dublin No. 7	2	7	9
	Dublin No. 8	2	6	8
	Dublin No. 9	2	4	6
	Dublin No. 10	2	5	7
	Total	20	60	80
Limerick ...	Limerick No. 1	2	9	11
	Limerick No. 2	1	6	7
	Limerick No. 3	1	5	6
	Limerick No. 4	2	6	8
	Limerick No. 5	2	6	8
	Total	8	32	40

COUNTY BOROUGH ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County Borough.	Borough Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each Borough Electoral Area.		
				Aldermen.	Councillors.	Total.
LONDONDERRY	North	...	...	3	8	11
	Waterside	...	...	2	7	9
	East and South	...	...	3	9	12
	West	...	...	2	6	8
	Total	...	...	10	30	40
WATERFORD	Waterford No. 1	...	...	2	4	6
	Waterford No. 2	...	...	2	8	10
	Waterford No. 3	...	...	2	6	8
	Waterford No. 4	...	...	2	4	6
	Waterford No. 5	...	...	2	8	10
	Total	...	...	10	30	40
<i>Borough Electoral Areas.</i>						
CLONMEL	St. Mary's North	...	...	1	5	6
	St. Mary's South	...	...	1	5	6
	St. Patrick's	...	...	1	5	6
	St. Peter's	...	...	1	5	6
	Total	...	...	4	20	24
DROGHEDA	S ^t . Lawrence Gate	...	...	2	6	8
	West Gate	...	...	2	6	8
	Duleek Gate	...	...	2	6	8
	Total	...	...	6	18	24
KILKENNY	Kilkenny No. 1	...	...	3	9	12
	Kilkenny No. 2	...	...	3	9	12
	Total	...	...	6	18	24
SLIGO	Sligo East	...	...	2	6	8
	Sligo North	...	...	2	6	8
	Sligo West	...	...	2	6	8
	Total	...	...	6	18	24
WEXFORD	Wexford No. 1	...	...	2	5	7
	Wexford No. 2	...	...	2	9	11
	Wexford No. 3	...	...	2	4	6
	Total	...	...	6	18	24

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.		Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
ARLOW ...	Arlow East Urban ...	...	8
	Arlow West Urban ...	...	7
	Total ...	...	15
ARMAUGH ...	Armagh East Urban ...	...	4
	Armagh North Urban ...	...	8
	Armagh South Urban ...	...	6
	Total ...	...	18
ATHLONE ...	Athlone East Urban ...	...	9
	Athlone West Urban ...	...	9
	Total ...	...	18
ATHY ...	Athy East Urban ...	...	8
	Athy West Urban ...	...	9
	Total ...	...	15
BALLINA ...	Ardnaree ...	...	4
	Ballina North West Urban ...	...	6
	Ballina South West Urban ...	...	5
	Total ...	...	15
BALLINASLOE ...	Ballinasloe North East Urban ...	...	4
	Ballinasloe South East Urban ...	...	6
	Ballinasloe West Urban ...	...	5
	Total ...	...	15
BALLYMENA ...	Harryville ...	...	5
	Market ...	...	5
	Town Hall ...	...	5
	Total ...	...	15
BALLYMONEY ...	Ballymoney North Urban ...	...	6
	Ballymoney South Urban ...	...	6
	Total ...	...	12
BANBRIDGE ...	Banbridge East Urban ...	...	4
	Banbridge North West Urban ...	...	5
	Banbridge South West Urban ...	...	6
	Total ...	...	15

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
BANGOR ...	Castle ...	...	...	7
	Clifton ...	...	...	3
	Dufferin ...	...	...	5
	Total ...			15
BELTURBET ...	Belturbet Urban ...	...	...	9
	Total ...			9
BIRR ...	Birr North East Urban ...	...	...	7
	Birr South East Urban ...	...	...	7
	Birr West Urban ...	...	...	7
	Total ...			21
BLACKROCK ...	Blackrock No. 1 Urban ...	...	...	6
	Blackrock No. 2 Urban ...	...	...	7
	Booterstown ...	...	...	6
	Monkstown ...	...	...	5
	Total ...			24
BRAY ...	Bray East Urban ...	...	...	7
	Little Bray ...	...	...	5
	Bray West Urban ...	...	...	3
	Total ...			15
BUNCRAHA ...	Buncrana North Urban ...	...	...	6
	Buncrana South Urban ...	...	...	6
	Total ...			12
BUNDORAN ...	Bundoran North Urban ...	...	...	7
	Bundoran South Urban ...	...	...	5
	Total ...			12
CARRICKFERGUS ...	Carrickfergus Central Urban ...	...	...	5
	Carrickfergus East Urban ...	...	...	5
	Carrickfergus West Urban ...	...	...	8
	Total ...			18
CARLOW ...	Graiguescullen ...	...	...	3
	Carlow North Urban ...	...	...	9
	Carlow South Urban ...	...	...	6
	Total ...			18

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area
CARRICK-ON-SUIR	Carrickbeg	3
	Carrick-on-Suir East Urban	6
	Carrick-on-Suir West Urban	6
	Total ...	15
CARRICKMACROSS	Carrickmacross Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
CASHEL ...	Cashel East Urban ...	6
	Cashel North West Urban	6
	Cashel South West Urban	6
	Total ...	18
CASTLEBAR ...	Castlebar East Urban ...	6
	Castlebar West Urban ...	6
	Total ...	12
CASTLEBLAYNEY ...	Castleblayney Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
CAVAN ...	Cavan East Urban ...	7
	Cavan North West Urban	6
	Cavan South West ...	5
	Total ...	18
CLONAKILTY ...	Clonakilty Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
CLONES ...	Clones Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
COLERAINE ...	Coleraine North East Urban	7
	Coleraine South East Urban	7
	Coleraine West Urban ...	4
	Total ...	15
COOKSTOWN ...	Cookstown North Urban ...	6
	Cookstown South Urban ...	6
	Total ...	12

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
COOTEHILL ...	Cootehill Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
DALKEY ...	Dalkey North Urban ...	5
	Dalkey South Urban ...	7
	Total ...	12
DONAGHADEE ...	Donaghadee North Urban ...	6
	Donaghadee South Urban ...	6
	Total ...	12
DROMORE ...	Dromore Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
DUNDALK ...	Dundalk Middle Urban ...	3
	Dundalk North Urban ...	3
	Seaview ...	7
	Dundalk South Urban ...	5
	Total ...	18
DUNGANNON ...	Dungannon Centre Urban ...	7
	Dungannon East Urban ...	7
	Dungannon West Urban ...	7
	Total ...	21
DUNGARVAN ...	Abbeyside ...	3
	Dungarvan Central Urban ...	6
	Dungarvan South West Urban ...	6
	Total ...	15
ENNIS ...	Ennis North East Urban ...	6
	Ennis South West Urban ...	6
	Total ...	12
ENNISCORTHY ...	Enniscorthy East Urban ...	4
	Enniscorthy North West Urban ...	6
	Enniscorthy South West Urban ...	5
	Total ...	15
ENNISKILLEN ...	Enniskillen East Urban ...	7
	Enniskillen North Urban ...	7
	Enniskillen South Urban ...	7
	Total ...	21

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.		Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
FERMOY	Fermoy Central Urban	...	5
	Fermoy North Urban	...	5
	Fermoy South Urban	...	5
	Total	...	15
GALWAY	Galway East Urban	...	7
	Galway North Urban	...	5
	Galway South Urban	...	5
	Galway West Urban	...	6
	Total	...	24
GRANARD	Granard Urban	...	9
	Total	...	9
HOLYWOOD	Hollywood Urban	...	9
	Total	...	9
HOWTH	Howth East Urban	...	7
	Howth West Urban	...	5
	Total	...	12
KEADY	Keady Urban	...	9
	Total	...	9
KELLS	Kells North Urban	...	8
	Kells South Urban	...	7
	Total	...	15
KILLARNEY	Killarney East Urban	...	6
	Killarney West Urban	...	6
	Total	...	12
KILLINEY and BALLYBRACK	Killiney and Ballybrack North Urban	...	5
	Killiney and Ballybrack South Urban	...	7
	Total	...	12
KILRUSH	Kilrush East Urban	...	6
	Kilrush West Urban	...	6
	Total	...	12

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
KINGSTOWN ...	Kingstown East Urban ...	5
	Glasthule ...	5
	Monkstown ...	3
	Kingstown West Urban ...	8
	Total ...	21
KINSALE ...	Kinsale North Urban ...	6
	Kinsale South Urban ...	9
	Total ...	15
LARNE ...	Central ...	4
	Curran ...	3
	Gardenmore ...	4
	Townparks ...	4
	Total ...	15
LETTERKENNY ...	Letterkenny Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
LIMAVADY ...	Limavady Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
LISBURN ...	Lisburn Central Urban ...	6
	Lisburn North Urban ...	5
	Lisburn South East Urban ...	4
	Total ...	15
LISTOWEL ...	Listowel East Urban ...	7
	Listowel West Urban ...	5
	Total ...	12
LONGFORD ...	Longford North West Urban ...	6
	Longford South East Urban ...	9
	Total ...	15
LURGAN ...	Lurgan North Urban ...	6
	Lurgan South East Urban ...	3
	Lurgan South West Urban ...	6
	Total ...	15

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
MACROOM ...	Macroom Urban ...			9
	Total ...			9
MALLOW ...	Mallow East Urban ...			7
	Mallow North West Urban ...			7
	Mallow South Urban ...			7
	Total ...			21
MIDLETON ...	Midleton Urban ...			9
	Total ...			9
MONAGHAN ...	Monaghan East Urban ...			6
	Monaghan West Urban ...			6
	Total ...			12
NAAS ...	Naas Urban ...			9
	Total ...			9
NAVAN ...	Navan North Urban ...			8
	Navan South Urban ...			7
	Total ...			15
NEWCASTLE ...	Newcastle North Urban ...			6
	Newcastle South Urban ...			6
	Total ...			12
NEW ROSS ...	New Ross North East Urban ...			7
	New Ross South West Urban ...			8
	Total ...			15
NEWRY ...	Newry North Urban ...			4
	Newry South Urban ...			6
	Newry West Urban ...			8
	Total ...			18
NEWTOWNARDS ...	Castle ...			3
	Central ...			6
	Victoria ...			6
	Total ...			15

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
OMAGH ...	Omagh North Urban ...	7
	Omagh South Urban ...	7
	Omagh West Urban ...	7
	Total ...	21
PEMBROKE ...	Pembroke East Urban ...	7
	Pembroke West Urban ...	8
	Total ...	15
PORTADOWN ...	Portadown North Urban ...	5
	Portadown South East Urban ...	4
	Portadown South West Urban ...	6
	Total ...	15
PORTRUSH ...	Portrush East Urban ...	6
	Portrush North Urban ...	6
	Portrush West Urban ...	3
	Total ...	15
PORTSTEWART ...	Portstewart East Urban ...	6
	Portstewart West Urban ...	6
	Total ...	12
QUEENSTOWN ...	Queenstown East Urban ...	9
	Queenstown West Urban ...	6
	Total ...	15
RATHMINES and RATHGAR.	Rathmines and Rathgar No. 1 East Urban.	4
	Rathmines and Rathgar No. 2 East Urban.	7
	Rathmines and Rathgar No. 1 West Urban.	5
	Rathmines and Rathgar No. 2 West Urban.	5
	Total ...	21
SKIBBEREEN ...	Skibbereen Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
STRABANE ...	Strabane North Urban ...	6
	Strabane South Urban ...	6
	Total ...	12

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
TANDERAGEE ...	Tanderagee Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
TEMPLEMORE ...	Templemore East Urban ...	6
	Templemore North West Urban.	4
	Templemore South Urban ...	5
	Total ...	15
THURLES ...	Thurles North Urban ...	6
	Thurles South Urban ...	6
	Total ...	12
TIPPERARY ...	Tipperary East Urban ...	9
	Tipperary West Urban ...	9
	Total ...	18
TRALEE ...	Tralee North East Urban ...	7
	Tralee South East Urban ...	7
	Tralee West Urban ...	7
	Total ...	21
TRIM ...	Trim Urban ...	9
	Total ...	9
TULLAMORE ...	Tullamore East Urban ...	8
	Tullamore West Urban ...	7
	Total ...	15
WARRENPOINT ...	Warrenpoint East Urban ...	5
	Warrenpoint West Urban ...	7
	Total ...	12
WESTPORT ...	Westport East Urban ...	6
	Westport South Urban ...	7
	Westport West Urban ...	5
	Total ...	18

URBAN DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

Urban District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
WICKLOW ...	Abbey	5
	Castle	7
	Kilmartin	9
	Total	21
YOUGHAL ...	Youghal Central Urban ...	7
	Youghal North Urban ...	7
	Youghal South Urban ...	7
	Total	21

ELECTORAL AREAS IN TOWNS

UNDER

THE TOWNS IMPROVEMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1854.

Town.	Town Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each Town Electoral Area.
ANTRIM ...	Antrim	9
	Total	9
ARDEE ...	Ardee	9
	Total	9
AUGHNASLOY ...	Aughnasloy	9
	Total	9
BAGENALSTOWN ...	Bagenalstown	9
	Total	9
BALBRIGGAN ...	Balbriggan	9
	Total	9
BALLYBAY ...	Ballybay	9
	Total	9

ELECTORAL AREAS IN TOWNS

UNDER

THE TOWNS IMPROVEMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1854.—(continued).

Town.	Town Electoral Area.				Number of Members to be elected for each Town Electoral Area.
BALLYSHANNON ...	Ballyshannon North East ...				6
	Ballyshannon South West ...				6
	Total ...				12
BANDON ...	Bandon North ...				8
	Bandon South East ...				5
	Bandon South West ...				5
	Total ...				18
BANTRY ...	Bantry ...				9
	Total ...				9
BOYLE ...	Boyle ...				9
	Total ...				9
CALLAN ...	Callan ...				9
	Total ...				9
DOWNPATRICK ...	Downpatrick North ...				5
	Downpatrick South ...				7
	Total ...				12
EDENDERRY ...	Edenderry ...				9
	Total ...				9
FETHARD ...	Fethard North ...				6
	Fethard South ...				6
	Total ...				12
GILFORD ...	Gilford ...				9
	Total ...				9
GOREY ...	Gorey ...				9
	Total ...				9
KILKEE ...	Kilkee North ...				5
	Kilkee South ...				7
	Total ...				12

ELECTORAL AREAS IN TOWNS

UNDER

THE TOWNS IMPROVEMENT (IRELAND) ACT, 1854—continued.

Town.	Town Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each Town Electoral Area.
LISMORE	Lismore	...	...	9
	Total	...	...	9
LOUGHREA	Loughrea North	...	...	6
	Loughrea South	...	...	6
	Total	...	...	12
MARYBOROUGH	Maryborough	...	...	9
	Total	...	...	9
MOUNTMELICK	Mountmellick	...	...	9
	Total	...	...	9
MULLINGAR	Mullingar North	...	...	9
	Mullingar South	...	...	6
	Total	...	...	15
NEWBRIDGE	Newbridge	...	...	9
	Total	...	...	9
NEWCASTLE (Co. Limerick)	Newcastle East	...	...	8
	Newcastle West	...	...	7
	Total	...	...	15
RATHKEALE	Rathkeale East	...	...	8
	Rathkeale West	...	...	7
	Total	...	...	15
ROSCOMMON	Roscommon	...	...	9
	Total	...	...	9
TUAM	Tuam North East	...	...	4
	Tuam North West	...	...	6
	Tuam South	...	...	5
	Total	...	...	15

COUNTY ELECTORAL AREAS.

County.	County Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each County Electoral Area.
ANTRIM	Antrim	...	...	4
	Ballymena	...	...	0
	Ballymoney	...	...	4
	Carrickfergus	...	...	4
	Lisburn	...	...	3
	Total	...	...	21
ARMAGH	Armagh	...	...	3
	Forkhill	...	...	5
	Keady	...	...	3
	Lurgan	...	...	4
	Markethill	...	...	4
	Portadown	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	23
CARLOW	Bagenalstown	...	...	5
	Borris	...	...	5
	Carlow	...	...	5
	Tullow	...	...	5
	Total	...	...	20
CAVAN	Bailieborough	...	...	5
	Ballyjamesduff	...	...	5
	Belturbet	...	...	5
	Cavan	...	...	5
	Total	...	...	20
CLARE	Ennis	...	...	4
	Ennistymon	...	...	3
	Killaloe	...	...	4
	Kilrush	...	...	5
	Miltown-Malbay	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	20
CORK	Ballincollig	...	...	4
	Bandon	...	...	4
	Bantry	...	...	4
	Dunmanway	...	...	3
	Kanturk	...	...	4
	Macroom	...	...	3
	Mallow	...	...	5
	Queenstown	...	...	5
	Total	...	...	32

COUNTY ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

County.	County Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each County Electoral Area.
DONEGAL ...	Buncrana	...	...	4
	Donegal	...	...	5
	Glenties	...	...	4
	Letterkenny	...	...	4
	Milford	...	...	3
	Total	...	...	20
DOWN ...	Downpatrick	...	...	4
	Dromore	...	...	5
	Newry	...	...	5
	Newtownards	...	...	6
	Total	...	...	20
DUBLIN ...	Clondalkin	...	...	3
	Kingstown	...	...	5
	Rathmines	...	...	7
	Swords	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	19
FERMANAGH ...	Crum	...	...	3
	Enniskillen	...	...	3
	Inishmacsaint	...	...	3
	Kesh	...	...	4
	Lisnaskea	...	...	4
	Newtownbutler	...	...	3
	Total	...	...	20
GALWAY ...	Ballinasloe	...	...	3
	Galway	...	...	4
	Loughrea	...	...	4
	Oughterard	...	...	4
	Team	...	...	5
	Total	...	...	20
KERRY ...	Killarney	...	...	5
	Killorglin	...	...	5
	Listowel	...	...	5
	Tralee	...	...	7
	Total	...	...	22
KILDARE ...	Athy	...	...	4
	Clane	...	...	3
	Kildare	...	...	5
	Newbridge	...	...	4
	Nasas	...	...	5
	Total	...	...	21

COUNTY ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	County Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each County Electoral Area.
KILKENNY ...	Ballyragget	...	...	4
	Kilkenny	...	...	6
	Piltown	...	...	5
	Thomastown	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	19
KING'S COUNTY ...	Birr	...	...	5
	Edenderry	...	...	5
	Ferbane	...	...	5
	Tullamore	...	...	6
	Total	...	...	21
LEITRIM ...	Ballinamore	...	...	3
	Carrick-on-Shannon	...	...	5
	Carrigallen	...	...	3
	Drumshaire	...	...	4
	Manorhamilton	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	19
LIMERICK ...	Bruff	...	...	4
	Castleconnell	...	...	4
	Kilmallock	...	...	4
	Newcastle	...	...	4
	Rathkeale	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	20
LONDONDERY ...	Coleraine	...	...	5
	Dungiven	...	...	5
	Kilrea	...	...	4
	Magherafelt	...	...	5
	Total	...	...	19
LONGFORD ...	Ballinalee	...	...	4
	Ballymahon	...	...	5
	Drumlish	...	...	4
	Granard	...	...	3
	Longford	...	...	4
	Total	...	...	20
LOUTH ...	Ardee	...	...	6
	Barronstown	...	...	3
	Carlingford	...	...	4
	Drogheda	...	...	7
	Dundalk	...	...	8
	Total	...	...	28

COUNTY ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	County Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each County Electoral Area.
MAYO	Ballina ... ..	...	...	3
	Castlebar ... ..	...	...	3
	Claremorris ... ..	...	...	6
	Killala ... ..	...	...	3
	Swineford ... ..	...	...	5
	Westport ... ..	...	...	4
	Total			24
MEATH	Dunshaughlin ... ..	...	...	3
	Kells ... ..	...	...	5
	Navan ... ..	...	...	5
	Slane ... ..	...	...	4
	Trim ... ..	...	...	4
	Total			21
MONAGHAN	Carrikmacross ... ..	...	...	5
	Castleblayney ... ..	...	...	4
	Clones ... ..	...	...	5
	Monaghan ... ..	...	...	6
	Total			20
QUEEN'S COUNTY	Borris-in-Osney ... ..	...	...	6
	Luggacurren ... ..	...	...	4
	Maryborough ... ..	...	...	5
	Mountmellick ... ..	...	...	4
	Tinnahinch ... ..	...	...	3
	Total			22
ROSCOMMON	Boyle ... ..	...	...	5
	Castlerea ... ..	...	...	6
	Elphin ... ..	...	...	4
	Roscommon ... ..	...	...	6
	Total			21
SLIGO	Ballymote ... ..	...	...	6
	Dromore ... ..	...	...	4
	Sligo ... ..	...	...	6
	Tobercurry ... ..	...	...	4
	Total			20
TIPPERARY NORTH RIDING.	Borrisokane ... ..	...	...	4
	Borrisoleigh ... ..	...	...	3
	Nenagh ... ..	...	...	5
	Templemore ... ..	...	...	4
	Thurles ... ..	...	...	4
	Total			20

COUNTY ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	County Electoral Area.			Number of Members to be elected for each County Electoral Area.
TIPPERARY SOUTH RIDING.	Caher			4
	Cashel			4
	Clonmel			6
	Fethard			4
	Tipperary			5
	Total			23
TYRONE ...	Clogher			4
	Cookstown			4
	Dungannon			4
	Omagh			4
	Strabane			4
	Total			20
WATERFORD ...	Dungarvan			6
	Kilmaethomas			5
	Lismore			4
	Tramore			5
	Total			20
WESTMEATH ...	Athlone			5
	Coole			3
	Kilbeggan			3
	Killucan			4
	Mullingar			5
	Ballymore			3
	Total			23
WEXFORD ...	Enniscorthy			4
	Gorey			5
	New Ross			5
	Wexford			5
	Total			19
WICKLOW ...	Arklow			6
	Baltinglass			4
	Bray			5
	Wicklow			5
	Total			20

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.

County	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
ANTRIM ...	Antrim ...	Antrim ...	5
		Ballyclare Rural ...	5
		Cruralin ...	3
		Randalstown ...	5
		Templepatrick ...	3
		Total ...	21
	Ballycastle ...	Ballintoy ...	5
		Ballycastle ...	6
		Cushendall ...	4
		Total ...	15
	Ballymena ...	Broughshane ...	4
		Clogh ...	3
		Galgorm ...	4
		Kells ...	5
		Portglenone ...	3
		Total ...	19
	Ballymoney ...	Bushmilla ...	3
		Castle Quarter ...	4
		Dervock ...	3
		Enagh ...	4
		Killoquin ...	5
		Total ...	19
	Belfast ...	Belfast Rural ...	9
		Total ...	9
	Larne ...	Carrickfergus Rural ...	4
		Island Magee ...	3
		Kilwaughter ...	4
		Total ...	11
	Lisburn ...	Aghalee ...	3
		Glenavy ...	3
		Knocknadona ...	4
		Malone ...	6
		Total ...	16

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
ARMAGH ...	Armagh ...	Armagh Rural ...	6
		Keady Rural ...	6
		Loughgall ...	5
		Markethill ...	5
		Tynan ...	5
		Total ...	27
	Crossmaglen ...	Newtown Hamilton	4
		Crossmaglen ...	5
		Total ...	9
	Lurgan ...	Lurgan Rural ...	3
		Portadown Rural ...	3
		Tartaraghan ...	3
		Total ...	9
	Newry No. 2	Camlough ...	7
		Poyntz Pass ...	5
		Total ...	12
	Tanderagee ...	Tanderagee Rural	6
		Total ...	6
CARLOW ...	Baltinglass No. 2	Hacketstown ...	4
		Rathvilly ...	4
		Total ...	8
	Carlow ...	Bagenalstown ...	5
		Borris ...	5
		Carlow Rural ...	4
		Clonegall ...	4
		Fennagh & Myshall	6
		Leighlinbridge ...	4
		Tullow ...	6
		Total ...	34
	Idrone ...	Idrone Rural ...	6
		Total ...	6
CAVAN ...	Bailieborough	Bailieborough ...	5
		Crossbane ...	4
		Kingscourt ...	4
		Total ...	13

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
CAVAN—con.	Bawnboy ...	Bawnboy ...	7
		Swanlinbar ...	6
		Total ...	13
	Castlerahan ...	Castlerahan ...	9
		Total ...	9
	Cavan ...	Arvagh ...	5
		Ballyhaise ...	6
		Bellinahanagh ...	4
		Cavan Rural ...	3
		Cootehill Rural ...	4
		Drumcarn ...	4
		Killeshandra ...	4
		Killesleek ...	4
		Laragh ...	5
		Stradone ...	4
		Total	43
	Enniskillen No. 2	Enniskillen No. 2 Rural	8
		Total ...	8
	Mullagheran ...	Mullagheran Rural	7
		Total ...	7
CLARE ...	Ballyvaghan ...	Drumcreehy ...	6
		Lisdoonvarna ...	5
		Total ...	11
	Corrofin ...	Corrofin ...	5
		Muckanagh ...	4
		Total ...	9
	Ennis ...	Ennis Rural ...	6
		Killanniv ...	4
		Newmarket ...	4
		Templemaley ...	3
		Total ...	17
	Ennistymon ...	Ennistymon ...	5
		Killilagh ...	5
		Magherareagh ...	4
		Miltown Malbay ...	6
		Total ...	20

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS —continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
CLARE—cont. ...	Killadysert ...	Coolmeen ...	5
		Killadysert ...	6
		Total ...	11
	Kilrush ...	Doonbeg ...	5
		Kilkee ...	4
		Kilmihil ...	4
		Kilrush Rural ...	4
		Moyarta ...	4
		Mullagh ...	4
		Total ...	25
	Limerick No. 2	Mountievers ...	3
		O'Briensbridge ...	4
		Total ...	7
	Scariff ...	Feakle ...	7
		Killaloe ...	5
		Scariff ...	7
		Total ...	19
	Tulla ...	Caher ...	4
		Kilkishen ...	5
		Quinn ...	4
		Tulla ...	4
		Total ...	17
CORK ...	Bandon ...	Ballymodan ...	4
		Bandon ...	4
		Inishannon ...	3
		Kilbrittain ...	3
		Teadies ...	3
		Templemartin ...	4
		Total ...	21
	Bantry ...	Bantry ...	4
		Bantry Rural ...	3
		Durrus ...	4
		Glengarriff ...	5
		Total ...	16
	Castletown ...	Castletown Rural	7
		Total ...	7

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
CORK—con.	Charleville ...	Charleville ...	6
		Total ...	6
	Clonakilty ...	Clonakilty Rural ...	6
		Rosscarbery ...	7
		Timoleague ...	5
		Total ...	18
	Cork ...	Ballincollig ...	3
		Bishopstown ...	6
		Blackrock ...	7
		Blarney ...	4
		Queenstown Rural ...	5
		Whitechurch ...	5
		Total ...	30
	Dunmanway ...	Carrigboy ...	3
		Coolmountain ...	3
		Dunmanway ...	6
		Kinneigh ...	4
		Total ...	16
	Fermoy ...	Ballyhooley ...	4
		Ballynoe ...	3
		Fermoy Rural ...	4
		Kilworth ...	5
		Rathcoormack ...	3
		Total ...	19
	Kanturk ...	Banteer ...	6
		Boherboy ...	6
		Kanturk ...	6
		Knockatooan ...	4
		Milford ...	6
		Newmarket ...	5
		Total ...	33
	Kinsale ...	Ballinapittle ...	3
		Ballymartle ...	3
		Carrigaline ...	4
		Kinsale Rural ...	6
		Total ...	16

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
CORK—CON.	Macroom ...	Clonmoyle ...	6
		Inchigeelagh ...	4
		Macdonagh ...	5
		Rahallisk ...	4
		Slieveveagh ...	4
		Total ...	23
	Mallow ...	Buttevant ...	6
		Doneraile ...	4
		Kilshannig ...	5
		Mallow Rural ...	4
		Total ...	19
	Midleton ...	Cloyne ...	9
		Lisgoold ...	5
		Midleton Rural ...	4
		Total ...	18
	Millstreet ...	Oullen ...	5
		Drishane ...	7
		Total ...	12
	Mitchelstown No. 1.	Kildorrery ...	5
		Mitchelstown ...	6
		Total ...	11
	Skibbereen ...	Aghadown ...	3
		Castlehaven ...	6
		Cloonkeen ...	3
		Dromdaleague ...	6
		Skibbereen Rural ...	4
		Total ...	22
	Skull ...	Goleen ...	4
		Skull ...	7
		Total ...	11
	Youghal No. 1	Youghal No. 1 Rural	6
		Total ...	6

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
DONEGAL ...	Ballyshannon	Ballyshannon Rural	9
		Total ...	9
	Donegal ...	Donegal ...	5
		Dunkineely ...	4
		Laghy ...	5
		Mountcharles ...	4
		Total ...	18
	Dunfanaghy ...	Dunfanaghy ...	4
		Gortahork ...	6
		Total ...	10
	Glenties ...	Annagarry ...	7
		Ardara ...	4
		Dunglow ...	6
		Glencolumbkille ...	4
		Glenties ...	3
		Killybegs ...	3
		Total ...	27
	Inishowen ...	Buncrana Rural ...	7
		Carndonagh ...	4
		Malin ...	4
		Moville ...	6
		Total ...	21
	Letterkenny ...	Letterkenny Rural	8
		Temple Douglas ...	5
		Total ...	13
	Londonderry No. 2.	Londonderry No. 2 Rural.	8
		Total ...	8
	Milford ...	Carrickart ...	5
		Managh ...	4
		Milford ...	7
		Rathmullan ...	3
		Total ...	19

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
DONEGAL—CON.	Strabane No. 2	Castlefinn ...	4
		Raphoe ...	6
		Total ...	10
	Stranorlar ...	Cloghan ...	4
		Stranorlar ...	7
		Total ...	11
DOWN ...	Banbridge ...	Banbridge Rural ...	4
		Dromore Rural ...	3
		Gilford ...	3
		Loughbrickland ...	4
		Moneyslane ...	5
		Total ...	19
	Castlereagh ...	Castlereagh Rural	6
		Total ...	6
	Downpatrick ...	Ballynahinch ...	5
		Castlewelling ...	4
		Downpatrick ...	6
		Killyleagh ...	5
		Portaferry ...	3
		Strangford ...	3
		Total ...	26
	Hillsborough ...	Drumbeg ...	8
		Hillsborough ...	6
		Total ...	14
	Kilkeel ...	Kilkeel ...	6
		Rostrevor ...	4
		Total ...	10
	Moira ...	Moira Rural ...	6
		Total ...	6
	Newry No. 1 ...	Newry Rural ...	6
		Rathfriland ...	4
		Total ...	10

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
Down—con.	Newtownards	Comber ...	6
		Grey Abbey ...	5
		Newtownards Rural	4
		Total ...	15
DUBLIN ...	Balrothery ...	Balbriggan ...	5
		Malahide ...	7
		Skerries ...	6
		Total ...	18
	Celbridge No. 2	Celbridge No. 2 Rural.	6
		Total ...	6
	North Dublin	North Dublin Rural	6
		Total ...	6
	South Dublin	South Dublin Rural	6
		Total ...	6
	Rathdown No. 1	Rathdown No. 1 Rural	7
		Total ...	7
	Belleek ...	Belleek Rural ...	6
		Total ...	6
FERMANAGH	Clones No. 2	Clones No. 2 Rural	9
		Total ...	9
	Enniskillen ...	Ely ...	5
		Enniskillen ...	4
		Florencecourt ...	6
		Holywell ...	3
		Lisbellaw ...	4
		Newport ...	3
		Tempo ...	4
		Total ...	29
	Irvinestown ...	Clonelly ...	4
		Ederny ...	5
		Irvinestown ...	6
		Total ...	15

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
FERMANAGH— con.	Lisnaskea ...	Brookeborough ...	6
		Doon ...	6
		Lisnaskea ...	8
		Total ...	20
GALWAY ...	Ballinasloe No. 1	Ballinasloe Rural ...	4
		Killallaghan ...	4
		Kiltormer ...	3
		Laurencetown ...	3
		Total ...	14
	Clifden ...	Clifden ...	4
		Owengowla ...	6
		Rinvyle ...	5
		Roundstone ...	4
		Total ...	19
	Galway ...	Clare Galway ...	4
		Galway Rural ...	3
		Inishmore ...	3
		Moycullen ...	3
		Oranmore ...	3
		Spiddle ...	5
		Total ...	21
	Glennasmaddy	Glennasmaddy ...	6
		Kilcroan ...	5
		Raheen ...	4
		Toberree ...	3
		Total ...	18
	Gort ...	Ardrahan ...	3
		Ballycahalan ...	3
		Gort ...	7
		Kinvarra ...	6
		Total ...	19
	Loughrea ...	Athenry ...	6
		Bullaun ...	5
		Cappalusk ...	5
		Kilteskill ...	5
		Loughrea ...	4
		Loughrea Rural ...	4
		Woodford ...	6
		Total ...	35

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
GALWAY—CON.	Mountbellew ...	Clonbrook ...	4
		Killieroran ...	4
		Mount Bellew ...	6
		Total ...	14
	Oughterard ...	Cloonbur ...	4
		Lettermore ...	3
		Oughterard ...	5
		Total ...	14
	Portumna ...	Drummin ...	3
		Eyreecourt ...	5
		Portumna ...	7
		Total ...	15
	Tuam ...	Abbey ...	4
		Belclare ...	5
		Dunmore ...	8
		Headford ...	7
		Hillsbrook ...	5
		Tuam ...	4
		Tuam Rural ...	4
		Total ...	37
KERRY ...	Caherciveen ...	Caher ...	6
		Glanbehy ...	4
		Loughcurrane ...	5
		Portmagee ...	7
		Total ...	22
	Dingle ...	Ballinvoher ...	3
		Castlegregory ...	5
		Dingle ...	6
		Ventry ...	6
		Total ...	20
	Kenmare ...	Ardea ...	3
		Kenmare ...	5
		Kilgarvan ...	4
		Sneem ...	4
		Total ...	16

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

County	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
KERRY—con.	Killarney ...	Coom ...	6
		Killarney Rural ...	5
		Killorglin ...	8
		Miltown ...	4
		Molshiffe ...	5
		Total ...	28
	Listowel ...	Ballyduff ...	6
		Ballyhorgan ...	6
		Killehenry ...	4
		Lisselton ...	4
		Listowel Rural ...	6
		Tarbert ...	5
		Total ...	31
	Tralee ...	Ardfert ...	7
		Broona ...	5
		Castleisland ...	4
		Kilgarrylander ...	4
		Ratass ...	3
		Scartaglin ...	3
		Tralee Rural ...	6
		Total ...	32
KILDARE ...	Athy No. 1 ...	Athy Rural ...	5
		Ballitore ...	3
		Castledermot ...	5
		Fontstown ...	4
		Harristown ...	3
		Monasterevin ...	6
		Total ...	26
	Celbridge No. 1	Celbridge ...	6
		Kilcock ...	3
		Total ...	9
	Edenderry No. 2	Cadamstown ...	4
		Carbury ...	3
		Rathangan ...	4
		Total ...	11
	Naas No. 1 ...	Ballymore Eustace ...	3
		Kilcullen ...	7
		Kildare ...	5
		Kilmeage ...	4
		Naas Rural ...	6
		Newbridge ...	7
		Total ...	32

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
KILKENNY ...	Callan ...	Callan ...	8
		Kilmaganny ...	5
		Total ...	13
	Carrick-on-Suir No. 3.	Carrick-on-Suir No. 3 Rural.	8
		Total ...	8
	Castlecomer ...	Castlecomer Rural	9
		Total ...	9
	Ida ...	Ida Rural ...	7
		Total ...	7
	Kilkenny ...	Freshford ...	4
		Kilkenny Rural ...	5
		Tiscoffin ...	6
		Total ...	15
	Thomastown ...	Graiguenamanagh	7
		Inistioge ...	6
		Knocktopher ...	5
		Thomastown ...	5
		Woolengrange ...	4
		Total ...	27
	Urlingford No. 1	Balkeen ...	4
		Urlingford ...	7
		Total ...	11
	Waterford No. 2	Dunkitt ...	7
		Kilmakewege ...	5
		Total ...	12
KING'S COUNTY	Birr No. 1 ...	Benagher ...	6
		Birr Rural ...	5
		Clonmacnoise ...	5
		Ferbane ...	6
		Frankford ...	4
		Kinnity ...	3
		Total ...	29

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
KING'S COUNTY —con.	Edenderry No. 1	Ballyburley ...	5
		Clonbulloge ...	3
		Edenderry ...	7
		Total ...	15
	Roscrea No. 2	Mountheaton ...	5
		Shinrone ...	5
		Total ...	10
	Tullamore ...	Clara ...	7
		Clonygowan ...	4
		Killoughy ...	5
		Philipstown ...	4
		Tullamore Rural ...	4
		Total ...	24
LEITRIM ...	Ballinamore ...	Ballinamore ...	8
		Newtowngore ...	4
		Total ...	12
	Carrick-on-Shannon No. 1.	Carrick-on-Shannon ...	6
		Drumreilly ...	4
		Drumshanbo ...	7
		Total ...	17
	Kinlough ...	Kinlough Rural ...	6
		Total ...	6
	Manorhamilton	Drumahaire ...	6
		Drumkeeran ...	5
		Lurganboy ...	3
		Manorhamilton ...	5
		Munskill ...	3
		Total ...	22
	Mohill ...	Carrigallen ...	5
		Drumod ...	3
		Mohill ...	4
		Rinn ...	6
		Rowan ...	5
		Total ...	23

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
LIMERICK ...	Croom	Adare	7
		Castletown	7
		Croom	6
		Total	20
	Glin ...	Glin	6
		Total	6
	Kilmallock ...	Bruff	4
		Bruree	3
		Hospital	5
		Kilfinnane	6
		Kilmallock	6
		Total	24
	Limerick No. 1	Cahereonlish	4
		Cappamore	4
		Castleconnell	4
		Limerick Rural	8
		Total	20
	Mitchelstown No. 2.	Mitchelstown No. 2 Rural.	6
		Total	6
	Newcastle ...	Abbeyfeale	5
		Ardagh	5
		Broadford	7
		Monagay	6
		Newcastle	6
		Total	29
	Rathkeale ...	Ankeston	4
		Pallaskenry	5
		Rathkeale	3
		Rathkeale Rural	7
		Shanagolden	6
		Total	25
	Tipperary No. 2	Tipperary No. 2 Rural.	7
		Total	7

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.

County	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
LONDONDERRY	Coleraine ...	Aghadowcy ...	3
		Articlave ...	3
		Garvagh ...	3
		Kilrea ...	4
		Knockantern ...	3
		Total ...	16
	Limavady ...	Ballykelly ...	4
		Bellarena ...	3
		Dungiven ...	6
		Fruithill ...	3
		Total ...	16
	Londonderry No. 1.	Claudy ...	3
		Eglinton ...	4
		Waterside ...	5
		Total ...	12
	Magherafelt ...	Bellaghy ...	5
		Draperstown ...	5
		Maghera ...	4
		Magherafelt ...	6
		Money more ...	5
		Total ...	25
LONGFORD ...	Ballymahon ...	Ballymahon ...	8
		Kilglass ...	5
		Total ...	13
	Granard No. 1	Ballinalee ...	6
		Columbkille ...	5
		Edgeworthstown ...	4
		Granard Rural ...	6
		Total ...	21
	Longford ...	Ballinamuck ...	4
		Drumlish ...	4
		Killashee ...	4
		Longford Rural ...	5
		Total ...	17

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
LOUTH	Ardee No. 1	Ardee	7
		Castlebellingham	4
		Dunliver	5
		Total	16
	Dundalk	Carlingford	6
		Droiskin	3
		Dundalk Rural	6
		Total	15
	Louth	Louth Rural	6
		Total	6
MAYO	Ballina	Ballina Rural	7
		Ballycastle	3
		Crossmolina	5
		Killala	5
		Mount Falcon	6
		Total	26
	Ballinrobe	Ballinrobe	6
		Cappaghduff	3
		Cong	4
		Hollymount	5
		Total	18
	Belmullet	Bangor	5
		Belmullet	5
		Knocknalower	5
		Total	15
	Castlebar	Bellavary	6
		Castlebar Rural	4
		Cloonkeen	4
		Pontoon	3
		Total	17
	Claremorris	Ballyhaunis	8
		Ballindine	5
		Claremorris	6
		Total	19

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
MAYO—con.	Swineford ...	Kilkelly ...	5
		Kiltamagh ...	3
		Meelick ...	4
		Sonnagh ...	5
		Swineford ...	4
		Total ...	21
	Westport ...	Achill ...	5
		Ballycroy ...	3
		Islandeady ...	5
		Louisburgh ...	6
		Newport ...	5
		Westport Rural ...	5
		Total ...	29
MEATH ...	Ardee No. 2 ...	Ardee No. 2 Rural	6
		Total ...	6
	Dunshaughlin	Dunboyne ...	4
		Dunshaughlin ...	8
		Total ...	12
	Kells ...	Kells Rural ...	5
		Kilskeer ...	5
		Moynalty ...	6
		Nobber ...	5
		Total ...	21
	Meath ...	Meath Rural ...	6
		Total ...	6
	Navan ...	Castletown ...	3
		Navan Rural ...	5
		Painestown ...	3
		Total ...	11
	Oldcastle ...	Oldcastle ...	6
		Total ...	6

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
MEATH—cont.	Trim	Athboy	7
		Ballyhogan	3
		Innfield	4
		Summerhill	4
		Trim Rural	4
		Total	22
MONAGHAN	Carrickmacross	Carrickmacross Rural.	8
		Donaghmoynce	7
		Total	15
	Castleblayney	Ballybay	6
		Castleblayney Rural	8
		Total	14
	Clones No. 1	Clones Rural	7
		Dawsongrove	6
		Total	13
	Monaghan	Castleshane	5
		Emyvale	5
		Kilmore	4
		Monaghan Rural	3
		Scotstown	5
		Total	22
QUEEN'S COUNTY.	Abbeyleix	Abbeyleix	6
		Ballinskill	4
		Ballyroan	4
		Castletown	4
		Durrow	5
		Rathdowney	4
		Total	27
	Athy No. 2	Ballyllynan	5
		Stradbally	5
		Total	10
	Mountmelick	Ballybrittas	6
		Clonsalee	4
		Coolrain	3
		Emo	3
		Maryborough	9
		Mountmelick	8
		Mountrath	6
		Total	39

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

County	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
QUEEN'S COUNTY—con.	Roscrea No. 3	Roscrea No. 3 Rural	6
		Total ...	6
	Slievermargy ...	Slievermargy Rural	7
		Total ...	7
ROSCOMMON	Athlone No. 2	Athlone West Rural	6
		Creagh ...	4
		Dysart ...	4
		Kiltoom ...	4
		Total ...	18
	Boyle No. 1 ...	Boyle ...	3
		Boyle Rural ...	5
		Croghan ...	6
		Keadew ...	5
		Total ...	19
	Carrick-on-Shannon No. 2.	Aughrim ...	4
		Danesfort ...	4
		Total ...	8
	Castleroa ...	Ballaghaderreen ...	7
		Ballinlough ...	5
		Castleroa ...	3
		Frenchpark ...	4
		Total ...	19
	Roscommon ...	Athleague ...	5
		Cams ...	4
		Drumcuff ...	6
		Roscommon ...	4
		Total ...	19
	Strokestown	Elphin ...	6
		Roosky ...	6
		Strokestown ...	6
		Tulsk ...	3
		Total ...	20

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
SLIGO	Boyle No. 2	Coolavin	6
		Kilmastranny	4
		Templevanny	5
		Total	15
	Dromore West	Castleconor	6
		Dromore	6
		Skreen	5
		Total	17
	Sligo	Ballymote	4
		Carney	5
		Cliffony	3
		Collooney	4
		Knockaree	4
		Riverstown	4
		Total	24
	Tobercurry	Achonry	4
		Aclare	5
		Coolaney	4
		Tobercurry	8
		Total	21
TIPPERARY NTH. RIDING.	Borrisokane	Borrisokane	7
		Clougjordan	4
		Riverstown	4
		Terryglass	4
		Total	19
	Nenagh	Ballina	5
		Birdhill	3
		Kilmore	4
		Latteragh	5
		Nenagh Rural	4
		Newport	4
		Total	25
	Roscrea No. 1	Bourney	5
		Roscrea	8
		Total	13
	Thurles	Borrisoleigh	5
		Holycross	3
		Littleton	3
		Templetuohy	4
		Thurles Rural	3
		Total	18

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
TIPPERARY Smt. RIDING.	Carrick-on-Suir No. 1.	Carrick-on-Suir No. 1 Rural.	6
		Total ...	6
	Cashel ...	Cashel Rural ...	4
		Fethard ...	5
		Killenaule ...	4
		Kilpatrick ...	5
		Tullamain ...	4
		Total ...	22
	Clogheen ...	Ardfinnan ...	4
		Caher ...	6
		Clogheen ...	5
		Total ...	15
	Clonmel No. 1	Clonmel No. 1 Rural	8
		Total ...	8
	Slievardagh ...	Ballingarry ...	5
		Kilcooly ...	5
		Mullinahone ...	4
		Total ...	14
	Tipperary No. 1	Bansha ...	4
		Cappagh ...	4
		Emly ...	4
		Golden ...	3
		Tipperary Rural ...	4
		Total ...	19
TYRONE ...	Castlederg ...	Castlederg ...	3
		Clare ...	5
		Killeter ...	6
		Total ...	14
	Clogher ...	Augher ...	4
		Aughnacloy ...	3
		Ballygawley ...	3
		Clogher ...	3
		Fivemiletown ...	3
		Total ...	16

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
TYRONE—con.	Cookstown ...	Cough ...	3
		Cookstown Rural ...	4
		Pomeroy ...	4
		Stewartstown ...	3
		Total ...	14
	Dungannon ...	Caledon ...	3
		Clonavaddy ...	3
		Donaghmore ...	4
		Moy ...	3
		Tullyniskian ...	4
		Total ...	17
	Omagh ...	Carrickmore ...	4
		Dromore ...	4
		Drumquin ...	4
		Fintona ...	5
		Gortin ...	6
		Mountjoy ...	3
		Omagh Rural ...	4
		Six Mile Cross ...	5
		Trillick ...	4
		Total ...	39
	Strabane No. 1	Altaclady ...	4
		Camus ...	3
		Dunnamanagh ...	5
		Newtown Stewart	3
		Plumb Bridge ...	4
		Total ...	19
WATERFORD	Carrick-on-Suir No. 2.	Portlaoigh ...	5
		Rathgormuck ...	5
		Total ...	10
	Clonmel No. 2	Clonmel No. 2 Rural	6
		Total ...	6
	Dungarvan ...	Dungarvan Rural	5
		Ringville ...	3
		Seskinan ...	3
		Whitechurch ...	3
		Total ...	14

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS,—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
WATERFORD— con.	Kilmaethomas	Comersah ...	5
		Gardenmore ...	7
		Kilmaethomas ...	4
		Total ...	16
	Lismore ...	Ballyduff ...	3
		Cappoquin ...	7
		Lismore ...	5
		Tallow ...	3
		Total ...	18
	Waterford No. 1	Kilmeadan ...	3
		Tramore ...	4
		Waterford Rural ...	3
		Woodstown ...	6
		Total ...	16
	Youghal No. 2	Youghal No. 2 Rural	6
		Total ...	6
WESTMEATH	Athlone No. 1	Athlone East Rural	4
		Glassan ...	3
		Monks ...	6
		Total ...	13
	Ballymore ...	Ballymore ...	6
		Total ...	6
	Coole ...	Coole ...	6
		Total ...	6
	Dalvin ...	Clonarnsey ...	4
		Dalvin ...	6
		Fore ...	4
		Kinturk ...	5
		Total ...	19

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
WESTMEATH— CON.	Mullingar ...	Castletown ...	6
		Clonfad ...	6
		Enniscoffey ...	4
		Kilbeggan ...	4
		Killucan ...	6
		Knockdrin ...	3
		Mullingar Rural ...	7
		Mullingar ...	7
		Multyfarnham ...	4
		Rathconrath ...	7
	Total ...		54
WEXFORD ...	Enniscorthy ...	Ballyhuskard ...	6
		Clonroche ...	3
		Enniscorthy Rural ...	5
		Ferns ...	3
		Killann ...	4
		Newtownbarry ...	5
	Total ...		28
	Gorey ...	Coolgreany ...	5
		Gorey ...	4
		Gorey Rural ...	6
		Kilcomb ...	6
		Monamolin ...	6
	Total ...		27
	New Ross ...	Carrighyrne ...	6
		Fethard ...	9
		New Ross Rural ...	4
		Old Ross ...	6
	Total ...		25
	Wexford ...	Ardcavan ...	3
		Bannow ...	4
		Bridgetown ...	5
		Rosslare ...	5
		Tagmon ...	3
		Wexford Rural ...	4
	Total ...		24
WICKLOW ...	Baltinglass No. 1	Baltinglass ...	7
		Blessington ...	6
		Dunlavin ...	7
		Rathdangan ...	4
	Total ...		24

RURAL DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREAS.—continued.

County.	Rural District.	District Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each District Electoral Area.
WICKLOW—COR.	Rathdown No. 2	Rathdown No. 2 Rural	6
		Total ...	6
	Rathdrum ...	Arklow Rural ...	5
		Danganstown ...	3
		Glendalough ...	3
		Newcastle ...	4
		Rathdrum ...	5
		Wicklow Rural ...	4
		Total ...	24
	Shillelagh ...	Coolattin ...	6
		Killinure ...	4
		Tinnahely ...	6
		Total ...	16

URBAN GUARDIANS.

COUNTY BOROUGH.

County Borough.	Poor Law Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each Poor Law Electoral Area.
BELFAST ...	Cromac ...	4
	Duncairn ...	3
	Falls ...	3
	Ormeau ...	3
	Pottinger ...	3
	St. Anne's ...	3
	Shankill ...	4
	Victoria ...	4
	Woodvale ...	3
	Total ...	30
CORK ...	Cork Centre ...	5
	Cork North East ...	5
	Cork North West No. 1 ...	3
	Cork North West No. 2 ...	3
	Cork North West No. 3 ...	3
	Cork South No. 1 ...	5
	Cork South No. 2 ...	3
	Total ...	27

URBAN GUARDIANS.—continued.

COUNTY BOROUGHS.—continued.

County Borough.	Poor Law Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each Poor Law Electoral Area.
DUBLIN ...	Dublin No. 1	3
	Dublin No. 2	4
	Dublin No. 3	3
	Dublin No. 4	3
	Dublin No. 5	3
	Dublin No. 6	3
	Dublin No. 7	5
	Dublin No. 8	4
	Dublin No. 9	3
	Dublin No. 10	3
	Total	40
LIMERICK ...	Limerick No. 1	7
	Limerick No. 2	5
	Limerick No. 3	4
	Limerick No. 4	6
	Limerick No. 5	6
	Total	28
LONDONDERRY ...	Londonderry North	5
	Waterside	4
	Londonderry East and South	5
	Londonderry West	4
	Total	18
WATERFORD ...	Waterford No. 1	3
	Waterford No. 2	6
	Waterford No. 3	4
	Waterford No. 4	4
	Waterford No. 5	5
	Total	22

BOROUGH.

Borough.	Poor Law Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each Poor Law Electoral Area.
CLONMEL ...	St. Mary's North	3
	St. Mary's South	3
	St. Patrick's	3
	St. Peter's	3
	Total	12

URBAN GUARDIANS—continued.

BOROUGHs—continued.

Borough.	Poor Law Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected for each Poor Law Electoral Area.
DROGHEDA ...	The Borough of Drogheda	9
	Total ...	9
KILKENNY ...	Kilkenny No. 1 ...	7
	Kilkenny No. 2 ...	6
	Total ...	13
SLIGO ...	Sligo East ...	4
	Sligo North ...	3
	Sligo West ...	3
	Total ...	10
WEXFORD ...	Wexford No. 1 ...	4
	Wexford No. 2 ...	6
	Wexford No. 3 ...	3
	Total ...	13

URBAN DISTRICTS.

Urban District.	Poor Law Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected to each Poor Law Electoral Area.
ARKLOW ...	Urban District of Arklow ...	6
ARMAGH ...	Urban District of Armagh ...	5
ATHLONE ...	Urban District of Athlone ...	10
ATHY ...	Urban District of Athy ...	7
BALLINA ...	Urban District of Ballina ...	4
BALLINASLOE ...	Urban District of Ballinasloe ...	7
BALLYCLARE ...	Urban District of Ballyclare ...	3
BALLYMENA ...	Urban District of Ballymena ...	6
BALLYMONEY ...	Urban District of Ballymoney ...	3
BANBRIDGE ...	Urban District of Banbridge ...	4
BANGOR ...	Urban District of Bangor ...	4
BELTURBET ...	Urban District of Belturbet ...	3
BIRR ...	Urban District of Birr ...	7
BLACKROCK ...	Urban District of Blackrock ...	4
BRAY ...	Urban District of Bray ...	4
BUNCRANA ...	Urban District of Buncrana ...	3
BUNDORAN ...	Urban District of Bundoran ...	3

URBAN DISTRICTS—continued.

Urban District	Poor Law Electoral Area	Number of Members to be elected to each Poor Law Electoral Area
CARLOW ...	Urban District of Carlow ...	10
CARRICKFERGUS ...	Urban District of Carrickfergus ...	3
CARRICKMAGUSSH ...	Urban District of Carrickmagussh ...	3
CARRICK-ON-SUIR ...	Urban District of Carrick-on-Suir ...	8
CASHEL ...	Urban District of Cashel ...	4
CASTLEBAR ...	Urban District of Castlebar ...	3
CASTLEBLAYNEY ...	Urban District of Castleblayney ...	3
CAVAN ...	Urban District of Cavan ...	3
CLONAKILTY ...	Urban District of Clonakilty ...	4
CLONES ...	Urban District of Clones ...	3
COLERAINE ...	Urban District of Coleraine ...	6
COOKSTOWN ...	Urban District of Cookstown ...	3
COOTEHILL ...	Urban District of Cootehill ...	3
DALKEY ...	Urban District of Dalkey ...	3
DONAGHADEE ...	Urban District of Donaghadee ...	3
DROMORE ...	Urban District of Dromore ...	3
DUNDALK ...	Urban District of Dundalk ...	9
DUNGANNON ...	Urban District of Dungannon ...	3
DUNGARVAN ...	Urban District of Dungarvan ...	7
ENNIS ...	Urban District of Ennis ...	7
ENNISCORTHY ...	Urban District of Enniscorthy ...	6
ENNISKILLEN ...	Urban District of Enniskillen ...	7
FERRYMOY ...	Urban District of Ferryboy ...	8
GALWAY ...	Galway East Urban ...	4
	Galway North Urban ...	3
	Galway South Urban ...	3
	Galway West Urban ...	3
Total ...		13
GRANARD ...	Urban District of Granard ...	3
HOLYWOOD ...	Urban District of Holywood ...	3
HOWTH ...	Urban District of Howth ...	3
KEADY ...	Urban District of Keady ...	3
KELLS ...	Urban District of Kells ...	5
KILLARNEY ...	Urban District of Killarney ...	5
KILLINEY and BALLYBRACK ...	Urban District of Killiney and Ballybrack ...	3
KILRUSH ...	Urban District of Kilrush ...	4
KINGSTOWN ...	Urban District of Kingstown ...	8
KINSALE ...	Urban District of Kinsale ...	6
LARNE ...	Urban District of Larne ...	4
LETTERKENNY ...	Urban District of Letterkenny ...	3
LIMAVADY ...	Urban District of Limavady ...	3
LISBURN ...	Urban District of Lisburn ...	8
LISTOWEL ...	Urban District of Listowel ...	4
LONGFORD ...	Urban District of Longford ...	4
LURGAN ...	Urban District of Lurgan ...	6
MACROOM ...	Urban District of Macroom ...	3
MALLOW ...	Urban District of Mallow ...	5
MIDLETON ...	Urban District of Middleton ...	3

URBAN DISTRICTS.—continued.

Urban District.	Poor Law Electoral Area.	Number of Members to be elected to each Poor Law Electoral Area.
MONAGHAN ...	Urban District of Monaghan	4
NAAS ...	Urban District of Naas ...	4
NAVAN ...	Urban District of Navan ...	4
NENAGH ...	Urban District of Nenagh ...	6
NEWCASTLE ...	Urban District of Newcastle	3
NEWROSS ...	Urban District of New Ross	8
NEWRY ...	Urban District of Newry ...	7
NEWTOWNARDS ...	Urban District of Newtownards	5
OMAGH ...	Urban District of Omagh ...	5
PEMBROKE ...	Urban District of Pembroke	5
PORTADOWN ...	Urban District of Portadown	6
PORTLUSH ...	Urban District of Portlusk	3
PORTSTEWART ...	Urban District of Portstewart	3
QUEENSTOWN ...	Urban District of Queenstown	3
RATHMINES AND RATHGAR.	Rathmines and Rathgar Urban District.	6
SKIBBEREEN ...	Urban District of Skibbereen	3
STRABANE ...	Urban District of Strabane	5
TANDERAGEE ...	Urban District of Tanderagee	3
TEMPLEMORE ...	Urban District of Templemore	3
THURLES ...	Urban District of Thurles ...	5
TIPPERARY ...	Urban District of Tipperary	7
TRALEE ...	Urban District of Tralee ...	10
TRIM ...	Urban District of Trim ...	3
TULLAMORE ...	Urban District of Tullamore	7
WARRENPOINT ...	Urban District of Warrenpoint.	3
WESTPORT ...	Urban District of Westport	3
WICKLOW ...	Urban District of Wicklow ...	4
YOUGHAL ...	Urban District of Youghal ...	7

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